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Poetry.

SELF-DEPENDENCE.

Weary of myself, and sick of asking
What I am and what I ought to be,
At the vessel's prow I stand, which bears me
Forward, forward o'er the starlit sea.

And a look of passionate desire
O'er the sea and to the stars I send;
"Ye who from my childhood up have calmed me,
Calm me, ah, compose me to the end."

"Ah, once more," I cried, "ye stars, ye waters,
On my heart your mighty charm renew;
Still, still let me, as I gaze upon you,
Feel my soul becoming vast, like you."

From the intense, clear, star-sown vault of heaven,
Over the lit sea's unquiet way,
In the rustling night air, came the answer:
"Would'st thou be as these are? Live as they!

"Unaffrighted by the silence round them,
Undistricted by the sights they see,
These demand not that the things without them
Yield them love, amusement, sympathy.

"And with joy the stars perform their shining
And the sea its long moon-silvered roll;
For alone they live, nor pine with noting
All the fever of some differing soul.

"Bounded by themselves and unobservant
In what state God's other works may be,
In their own tasks all their powers pouring,
These attain the mighty life you see."

O, air-born Voice! long since, severely clear
A cry like thine in my own heart I hear.
"Resolve to be thyself; and know that he
Who finds himself loses his misery."
—Matthew Arnold.

A DREAM OF SPRING.

To see the spring come in with pomp again;
The dandelions like Circassians lift
Black eyes to meet you; in the dampen'd rift
Of rotted leaves, the violets are fain
To stir from where all winter they have lain;
Beside the fence the sorrel's mingled drift;
While o'er the fresh-plowed furrows flying swift,
The blue bird mocks the humming of the swain.
The sun, as one who for a time bemoaned
His dead, smiles with a semblance of the joy
He felt ere summer died—once more enthroned;
And zephyrs laugh the laughter of a boy
For spring, when God stoops and with potent breath
The earth from its long slumber quickeneth.
—Will T. Hale in Nashville American.

UNSATISFIED.

When a visitor comes round
Feeling bright and cheerful,
Presently you hear a sound
Studious and fearful;
And you sit in silence grim,
Nervous, pale, and snappy,
Thinking dagger points for him,
Whistling, 'cause he's happy.

But, when later on, he calls,
Looking blue and bilious,
With a grievance that appals
E'en the supercilious;
Then you miss the note that made
Indignation bristle;
Wish he'd drop his manner staid;
Wish that he would whistle.
—Washington Star.

Miscellany.

A PRETTY COLLARETTE.

For mild days in winter a fur collarette is sufficiently warm without any wrap. And, indeed; some of the novelty cloths are too pretty to be hidden more than one can possibly help.

A pretty little collarette which was worn by a Toledo belle, with a novelty

suiting was a Medici collar with stole front of seal. The ends of the tabs were finished with four mink tails, which reached below the waist.

A sweet little hat worn with it was of white velvet, the fluted brim of which was studded with gold beads. The crown was tall and wider at the top than the bottom. It had two bands of black velvet. Between the bands were rows of the jewels and gold braid. The brim was lined with black velvet and finished with a fine cold cord. This was particularly lovely for a blonde, but would be becoming to any one.

He Suspected.

Dashaway—Hello, Uncle Jasper, I haven't seen you for a long time.

Uncle Jasper—No, sah. De fac' is, I'se so shabby dat I kinder hate t' 'pear 'fore 'spectable folks.

Dashaway—Well, now, uncle, if I should offer you the choice between a good glass of whisky and a pair of trousers up stairs, which would you take?

Uncle Jasper (scratching his head)—Well, boss, dat's a powerful hard nut to crack. But I 'spec' if I had dat glass of whisky firs' I'd be dat good I could elecute yo' inter givin' me dat pair of pants, sah.—Harlem Life.

Extortion.

The large and greasy bandit bowed low before the contessa. Opening a package, he disclosed an ear. "This, miladi," said he, "is the ear of the worshipful count."

"A ransom," said the contessa, toying with her fan, "was set at 10,000 plunka?"

"Exactly," said the bandit. "And remains at the same figure."

"This," said the lady, her bosom heaving with emotion, "is outrageous. It isn't business. As a reasonable man, you cannot expect me to pay full price for a remnant."—Indianapolis Journal.

An Innovation.

"Oh, yes, the opposition church engaged a brass band and all that for their fair, but we beat them out by over $1,000."

"How did you work it?"

"We hired a hypnotist at 10 per cent commission."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

The Wise Child.

Mother—"You don't know how you worry me, dear; why, my hair is turning gray!"

Florrie—"My how you must have worried grandma; her hair is all white!"—Household Words.

A TRAVELER'S PARADISE.

The island of Java would seem to be a paradise for the globe-trotter. It is described as excelling all other tropical islands in the number and variety of its attractions. The climate of the interior is cool and agreeable, there are plenty of mountains to climb, offering just the right amount of difficulty, active volcanoes to inspect and hot springs to bathe in.

Botanists and antiquaries who may visit the island will delight in the profusion of pretty wild flowers and ancient Buddhist ruins, and the sportsman will find plenty of game—deer, wild pig and tiger. Students of ethnology may expect to discover a rich mine in the study of the native Javanese, while political economists are sure to be interested in the Dutch system by which the islanders are governed, evolved as it is from old East India company rule.

A railway completed last year crosses the middle of the island from Batavia to Sourabaya, and there are good roads in every direction. The hotels are not at all bad, and where they fail very fair accommodations can be secured at the government bungalows. Hill climbing is much easier than in Europe, and the Javanese ponies are wonderfully accomplished in scrambling up places almost as steep as the roof of a house.

Java is very thickly populated, and cultivation is pushed to an extraordinary distance up the steep slopes of the hills. The plain of Leles in the month of July "is one sea of ripe golden rice, with here and there a village of brown thatch roofs nestling in a group of green cocoanut trees." In the middle of the island white chimneys of sugar mills peep above miles and miles of sugar cane fields.

The best time of year to visit Java is during the dry season, from May till October. Batavia is reached by steamer from Singapore in two days. The usual charge at the hotels is about $2 a day, and traveling by carriage or pony in the interior can be done at very moderate rates. The natives speak a "pidgin" Malay; the Dutch language prevails with the European settlers, but English is very generally understood and French almost always.

A DEVOTEE OF THE WHEEL.

He Dilated Upon the Machine Leveling All Social Barriers.

"I presume upon the fraternity that exists among wheelmen," said the natily dressed young man as he lifted his hat on approaching a group of cyclers at the side of the boulevard, according to the Detroit Free Press. "I never feel alone since nearly all the good people of the world are awheel."

After a gracious welcome he proceeded: "I have just returned from abroad and am convinced that the bicycle is doing more to level the social barriers now existing in Europe than is any other single influence. In Venice it is quite the proper thing for a man on a wheel to greet a lady similarly mounted, whether she be attended or alone. It's a radical departure, but the influence is good. I made as many desirable acquaintances as though armed with the highest social credentials.

"But I want to tell you that the bicycle contagion has a stronger hold in my native city of Denver than any other else in the world. People so old that they can scarcely walk, children that have just learned to walk, stately matrons, smartly dressed servant girls, ministers, dignified business men, judges, lawyers, toilers and gamblers, all pedal through the maze of riders that crowd the thoroughfares.

"That's a new one to me," he said, interrupting himself to examine the finest wheel in the collection. "It's a beauty. Do you mind my trying it?"

All that the police have found out about the affair is the number of the wheel.

DOGS AND THEIR FOOD.

A Good Master Will Always See to His Favorite's Meals in Person.

If a dog smells "doggy," don't at once jump to the conclusion that he is overfed. Examine him carefully, and you will probably find that he has a white, dyspeptic tongue and an irritable skin. Probably the owner gives him only one meal a day and no meat, under the impression that the "dogginess" results from overfeeding.

But one meal a day is not sufficient. If at the one meal the dog has as much as he likes to eat, he will probably, through sheer hunger eat too much. If, on the other hand, he has not as much as he wants, he remains permanently hungry. every dog should have two fair-sized, but not too large meals a day.

When the "no meat" mandate has gone forth the poor animal is supposed to be satisfied with cold potatoes, bits of crust and so on, or with an unvarying round of dog biscuits. Dogs ought to have a variety of food. Vegetable food is as much a necessity to them as to human beings, and the writer has many a time cured a dyspeptic, sick, despondent dog by the timely prescription of a due amount of carefully chosen food, including a little meat.

A dog in good condition ought to have bright eyes, a red tongue, hard, well-developed muscles and sweet breath, and is in this state as far removed from the fat, wheezing, overfed pet dog as he is from the lean and hungry type that at present prevails. A good master will always see to his dog's own meals in person, and he will remember that a clean, warm bed is indispensable, and that draughts are as much disliked by and as injurious to animals as they are to human beings.—Philadelphia Ledger.

YANKEE DOODLE.

Origin of the Famous Song, Dear to All Americans.

"Yankee Doodle" is claimed by many nations. It was known in England as "Nankee Doodle" in the time of Charles I. The Hollanders had an old song to this air called "Yanker Dudel." It is said to be also an old French vintage song, a native Hungarian air, and the ancient music of the sword dance of the Biscayans. In June, 1755, Dr. Richard Schuckburgh, regimental surgeon under General Braddock, thought to play a joke on the ragged, tattered Continentals by palming off the "Nankee Doodle" of the time of Cromwell upon the Colonial soldiers as the latest martial music. It at once became popular, but a quarter of a century later the joke seemed turned when the Continental bands played the same "Yankee Doodle" as Lord Cornwallis marched out after surrendering his army, his sword and the English colonies in America to the Yankees.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Making Rates.

Justice (who has been a shopkeeper)—"To you it will be six months; for anybody else it would be eight."—Boston Transcript.

At Last We Know.

"Papa, what do the men on the cable cars ring the bells so much for?"

"Because, my boy, it helps to confuse pedestrians."—Truth.

MOHAMMEDAN MEMBER OF THE FRENCH DEBUTIES.

Dr. Grenier, the Mohammedan member of the Franch chamber of deputies, is considered in France to be the triumph of that republic. It is very evident that with the French politics takes precedence of religion, for here is an out and out follower of Mahomet elected to the Congress to represent the people. Dr. Grenier is not a full-born Arab, but he is a stern believer in the precepts and the philosophy of the Koran after the manner of our own Muhammed Alexander Webb. He is immensely popular in Pontarlier, the district he represents in the chamber. He is a skillful physician, and is overgenerous with his skill. He treats all who consult him regardless of wealth or position. If the patient be poor he charges no fee, and often contributes the remedial agent gratis. Of course all this has served to win the hearts of the people, who in return sent him as their representative to the chamber. He was not chosen because of his fitness, but just because he was "good to the poor." His first appearance in the recent meeting of the chamber was the occasion of much enthusiasm and amusement. A great crowd gathered in the lobby to await his coming. He arrived punctually, clad in the costume of the nomad tribes of the Algerian desert. He had previously kissed the steps outside, but, to the vast delight of the crowd, he again prostrated himself as he entered the vestibule and saluted the floor with his lips. Being among the youngest members of the house, he was made one of the temporary secretaries pending the organization, and as he followed the presidential procession to the place reserved for nim he again knelt and kissed the floor. It is said that the fears of a Franco-Algerian combination, supposed to have been concealed within the folds of the doctor's white "bournous," have been dissipated, and that the Mohammedan deputy will probably prove a quite harmless integer of the Parisian government.

MISS GOULD'S DRESS.

Broadcloth Trimmed With Astrachan, With Skirt Cut in the New Gored Shape.

To be very wealthy and wear elegant clothes does not mean showy dress, necessarily, nor expensive gowns, but it does mean the most elegant fit and the very latest importations of style.

And that is the reason why Miss Helen Gould's street gown, as she walked into

MISS GOULD'S STREET GOWN.

a meeting of her kindergarten association, was greeted with the hum of admiration which anything new is bound to create in a feminine audience. Yet the dress was not so very remarkable. Its mode only was new.

The skirt was of fawn broadcloth, cut six yards around. It stood out, but without a particle of crinoline in it. It was doubtless supported underneath by one of the many patents offered for the purpose. At the hips it was close-fitting and had no flare until below the hips. The gores were sharply outlined with stripes of astrachan that descended to the foot, giving the wearer much height.

The waist was of one piece with the skirt, in princess style. It opened down the front. Both edges were trimmed with astrachan. The broad sailor collar and small standing one were both trimmed with the fur.

A very large muff of short astrachan, tied smartly around the middle with silk to match the fawn broadcloth, was completed with a floating bow of lace.

TALKING IN THIER SLEEP.

"You think I am dead,"
The apple tree said,
"Because I have never a leaf to show,
Because I stoop
And my branches droop,
And the dull-gray mosses over me grow!
But I'm alive in trunk and shoot!
The buds of next May
I fold away,
But I pity the withered grass at my root."

"You think I am dead,"
The quick grass said,
"Because I have parted with stem and blade!
But under the ground
I am safe and sound,
With the snow's thick blanket over me laid.
Should the spring of the year
Come dancing here,
But I pity the flower without branch or root."

"You think I am dead,"
A soft voice said,
"Because not a branch or root I own!
I never have died,
But close I hide
In a plumy seed that the wind has sown.
Patient I wait through the long winter hours;
You will see me again—
I shall laugh at you then,
Out of the eyes of a hundred flowers."
—Edith M. Thomas.

BOYS IN WALL STREET.

Their First Duties—What Is Expected of Them.

A Wall street boy is expected to be at the office at 9 o'clock in the morning, and remain there as long as his services are needed, though he usually gets away about 4 o'clock. He has an allowance of half an hour at noon for luncheon, but the rest of the time belongs to his employer. He is expected to be neat in appearance, clean as to hands and face, well mannered, truthful at all times, prompt in obedience, and faithful in guarding the secrets of his employers.

The duties first assigned to him are to carry messages, deliver stocks at other brokerage offices, and obtain checks for them. After a while he is advanced to making comparisons of sales of stocks and taking the checks received from other brokers to be certified at the banks.

Of late years the Stock Exchange clearing-house has done away with so much of the stock delivery by boys that the number of them on the street is not more than half what it used to be. Formerly it was not uncommon to see from twenty-five to one hundred boys waiting in line at each of the prominent banks to get checks certified, and nearly every bank employed a private policeman to keep the boys in line and in order.

A story is told of a new boy on the street who once went to make a delivery of stock. When the bookkeeper made up the accounts at the close of the day he found himself $80,000 short, and an examination of the books showed that one of the boys had failed to bring back a check in return for some stock he had delivered.

He was perfectly innocent about the matter, and said that he had handed the papers in at the office where he was sent to make the delivery, and as they gave him nothing he supposed there was nothing for him to get. His employer treated him kindly, and told him to be careful not to make the same mistake again. He never did. That boy is now at the head of one of the largest brokerage houses on Broad street.—Harper's Round Table.

A Revolving Idiot.

"What is a crank, papa?"

"A crank, my son, is a fellow who goes around with his wheels."—Yonkers Statesman.

SOME LATE NEW THINGS.

Acetylene gas is used in supercarbonizing or hardening armor plates, the plates being subjected in a heated condition to contact with the gas. The process was recently patented.

The use of a flat coiled spring in spring rocking chairs has recently been patented, the outer end of the spring being fastened to the upper portion of the chair and the inner end placed in a socket in the base of the rocker.

A new mechanical top has a shaft set in a handle, two or more wings being attached to the shaft in such a manner that when they are rapidly revolved by unwinding a string from the shaft the toy will rise in the air until the blades or wings stop revolving.

A newly-patented lamp for generating and burning acetylene gas consists of the combination of an outer vessel for holding water with a cylinder open at the bottom and provided with means for regulating the passage of gas from its upper part, the cylinder being supported in the vessel, a vessel for holding carbide of calcium being supported in the cylinder and provided with an upwardly-projecting perforated pipe having a valve at its lower end for permitting the water to enter in prearranged quantity and act upon the carbide of calcium to form the gas.

The Catamount and Bulldog.

The bulldog fought the wildcat fierce,
And of himself gave full account, too;
And as they dug the sepulchre,
He snarled: "What does a catamount to?"
—Cincinnati Tribune.

James Was Right In It.

Mamma (to Tommy)—I am sorry you and your sister quarrelled over that orange, and that James had to interfere. Whose part did James take?

Tommy—Whose part? He took the whole orange.—Tit-Bits.

Only a Slight Change.

"Spifkins has quit the photography business and is now a florist," remarked McSwilligan.

"Oh, well," replied Squiddig, "it is not much of a step from poses to posies."—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

Never Throw Her Over.

Love, and the world admires you;
Jilt, and you might as well bust;
For the jurymen's verdict will fire you
When she sues for breach of trust.
—Pittsburg News.

Writing.

Borgeus—Say, Fred, can't you lend me $10? I shall have some money coming in the last of next week.

Gilkal—Very well, we'll wait until the last of next week.—Boston Transcript.

Our Serial Story.

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"The Clock Struck One"

By FERGUS HUME,

Author of "The Mystery of a Hansom Cab," "The Lone Inn," "The Expedition of Captain Flick," "The Mystery of Landy Court, etc.

CHAPTER XIII.—DENIAL.

This, then, was the weapon which Joad had reserved to strike his last blow. By denouncing Scott he hoped to win a fortune; but by keeping silent for Dora's sake he thought he could force her to marry him. In either case he stood to win. With his indifference to money, he preferred the girl to the fifty thousand pounds. It only remained for her to accept his hand, in order to save her lover from death on the gallows. But as yet this was doubtful. Certainly the bolt had been shot; but would the bird fall? He waited.

With fixed eyes and bloodless face, Dora retreated slowly backward. At length she reached the wall, and leant against it, overcome with mingled feelings of terror and astonishment. Joad, his hands hanging loosely by his sides, stood looking at her, with a doubtful smile on his pale lips. Seeing that she did not speak, he repeated his accusation in a different form. He was now calmer.

"Your lover is the murderer of your guardian," said he, watching the effect of each word.

Something in the malice of his tones brought back the courage to Dora's heart with a rush. She flushed up bravely, and stepped forward boldly. Joad did not move, and she came close to him—so close that he could feel her breath on his withered cheek. For a final taunt he spoke again. "A murderer—that fine young man—your lover! Just think of it!"

"You lie!"

She brought out the words coldly, and without the least display of passion. Knowing Scott as she did, the charge was so monstrous that she could hardly forbear from breaking into hysterical laughter. As it was, she controlled herself admirably, and merely repeated her words. "You lie, Mr. Joad," she said steadily. "Your accusation springs from malice. You cannot substantiate your lie."

Without wasting time in asseverations, Joad simply raised his finger to emphasize his words. He related without preamble the grounds upon which he based his accusation. "Listen," he said, in his rich, deep voice; "you remember that day on which you brought Scott to see Julian. Very good. As you know, they had a serious quarrel. You heard yourself that Julian called out for protection. Scott wished to kill him at that moment."

"But why—why?" she stammered, making a vague gesture with her hand.

"Ah! you ask me more than I can tell. I was not present during the conversation, you know. However, I can guess what took place. I refuse to tell all, but this much I dare speak. Julian cast certain reflections on the dead parents of Scott, he mentioned something which took place twenty and more years ago."

"At Christchurch?" she murmured.

He looked surprised. "I don't know who told you so much," he said brusquely, "but I admit that your information is correct. At Christchurch, Miss Carew, an episode took place which was not creditable to Dr. Scott's parents."

"Had the episode to do with Mr. Edermont?"

"I cannot tell you. I am speaking of my grounds for suspecting your lover. What passed before matters nothing. Suffice it for you to understand that Julian quarrelled with Scott, and he was afraid lest the young man should murder him. You heard his cry for help."

"Well," said Dora, seeing that he paused.

"Well," replied Joad with a suave smile, "he did murder him."

"No; I do not believe it. Where are your proofs?"

Joad darted an imperious glance at her shrinking form. "I am about to produce my proofs," he declared calmly. "On the night of the second of August I left here at 9 o'clock. You assisted Julian to lock the gates behind me, if I remember. I went to my cottage and had my supper. Afterwards I waited for Mr. Pride, who had promised to look in on his return from Canterbury. Ten o'clock, eleven o'clock, twelve o'clock struck, and still Pride did not come. I thought that he had arranged to stay all night in Canterbury, but shortly after twelve, I went out on to the road to see if he was coming. I did not see him; I did see Dr. Scott."

"Allen?" cried Dora, disbelievingly.

"Himself. He was coming down the road on a bicycle."

"How could you recognize him in the dark?"

"The moon was up. I recognized him in the moonlight."

"Did he see you?"

"No; I was standing in the shadow. I was astonished to see him near the Red House at midnight, and I watched him. He passed the gates and got off his bicycle at the end of the wall. Then he turned down the side path which leads to the postern gate. I waited to see if he would return, but he did not. I was about to follow him when Pride arrived. Unwilling to say anything about what I had seen, lest it should compromise your lover, I took Pride into my house, and there I got talking to him till after two o'clock. In the interest of our conversation I quite forgot Scott and his visit. But the next morning"—he looked at her in a crafty way—"I heard of the murder and I found the postern gate open."

"And—and what inference do you draw from all this?" murmured Dora, with white lips.

"I infer that Scott called to see Julian with reference to their previous quarrel. Perhaps to demand proofs as to the episode of Christchurch. I believe that he climbed the wall and entered the house through the glass door of the drawing-room, which Julian had not locked. I have no doubt that he found Julian in his study; that Julian told him the story of the episode was locked up in the bureau. No doubt Scott insisted upon having the papers which revealed the dishonor of his parents placed in his hands. Julian would naturally refuse. Then the quarrel would recommence, and the end of it would be—well," added Joad, with a shrug, "you know the rest; Julian was killed, and the bureau robbed of that paper. What further proof can you desire that Dr. Scott murdered your guardian?"

Dora heard this story with a suffocating feeling in her throat. She felt as though a net were being thrown around Allen, as though he would be tangled in its meshes. It is true that he had returned from London on the night of the murder; but she could not understand why he should have visited the Red House at midnight. Then she remembered that Allen had gone to town on business connected with that terrible conversation with Edermont. What if he had learned that Edermont had spoken the truth regarding the dishonor of his parents, and had returned to revenge himself on the old man. These thoughts occurred to her with lightning rapidity; but in the end they all gave place to one. She must save him at any cost; to do so she must close Joad's mouth.

"Why did you not speak of this before?" she asked in a trembling voice.

"I wished to tell you first. You know that I love you. I wish you to be my wife. If you marry me, Scott will be safe. If not——"

"If not, what would you do?"

"My duty," said he solemnly.

The situation was frightful. Dora felt that she must scream, if only to relieve the tension of her nerves. If Joad denounced Allen, the doctor would be arrested; and what defense could he make, what explanation could he give for coming to the Red House on the night, at the very time of the committal of the crime? She said nothing, trying to collect her thoughts, while Joad blinked at her through his half-shut eyes.

"And, after all, you couldn't marry him," he declared suddenly; "he is guilty."

"That has yet to be proved," said Dora faintly. "I can not believe that Allen committed so horrible a crime. His motive—"

"His motive will be found in the papers he stole," said Joad brutally. "But come—your answer. Consent to be my wife, or I go to the police this evening."

"You—you must give me time," she stammered.

Joad nodded. "That is only fair," he said gravely. "I will give you a week. If you do not promise by that time, well—your lover goes to the scaffold."

How Dora got out of the library and climbed the stairs to her own room, she did not know. There was a humming in her ears, and the place seemed to go round and round. With an access of despair she threw herself on the bed, and tried to face the situation. Allen was innocent, she was certain, although no proofs of such innocence presented themselves at the moment. But on the face of it, his conduct appeared to be suspicious. What was he doing at the Red House at midnight?—why had he come there by stealth? If Joad denounced him, Dora could see no hope of saving his life. Still, she could protect him by becoming the wife of this disreputable villainus, whom she loathed with all her soul. But he held Allen's life in his hand, and the poor young fellow was doomed unless he could make some defense.

Defense! She sat up suddenly and thought. She had not yet heard Allen's side of the question. Perhaps he could explain himself, and give a reasonable excuse for his presence in the study at so untoward an hour. She remembered that Edermont had written asking Allen to call and see him. Might he not have appointed the conference for midnight, and have left the postern gate, the glass door, open so that Allen could enter without attracting attention? All this was feasible enough, and might be put forward in his defense. But on second thoughts Dora gave way to despair. Even so straightforward a tale would be against the presumption of his innocence.

Assuming that he had been in the study at the appointed hour, how could he prove himself guiltless? The fact of the previous quarrel was known to herself and Joad. Nothing was more likely than that they might have continued their dispute. Perhaps Edermont might have threatened Allen with his pistol; and to protect himself Scott might have torn the knob kerrie from the wall. But had he struck the blow? Had he—Dora closed her eyes with a faint cry, to shut out the vision of horror which that thought conjured into existence.

Without doubt Allen had been present in the study at the time of the murder. Joad saw him after 12 o'clock. Dora knew that the crime had been committed a minute or so before one. It was just possible that Allen had left the house before that time. But who could prove that he had so departed? Dora rose from her bed, and paced to and fro, distracted by a hundred thoughts that swarmed in her head like hiving bees.

"The murder was committed before one o'clock," she said aloud. "I can prove that. The striking of the clock came almost on top of that cry for help. Could Allen have gone away before then? He must have done. I can not believe that he would murder an inoffensive old man. No provocation would make him commit so brutal a crime. He is cool and collected; he is not passionate and impulsive. No, no, no! Allen is innocent! He left my guardian alive and well, Allen went—but who remained?"

Had two people been present? Dora remembered that Edermont had written other letters on the same time as that to Allen. Perhaps he had invited a third person to be present at that midnight conference. If so, when Allen departed, the third person might have remained to kill Edermont and rifle the desk. If such were the case, Allen must know the name of that third person. Why, then, did he not denounce such person to the police—not so much for the gaining of fifty thousand pounds as to accomplish an act of justice. Why was he silent? Why did he not speak out in his own defence? Dora could not but acknowledge in her own heart that the circumstantial evidence was strong against her lover.

"Oh, I can't stay here thinking—thinking," she cried fiercely; "it will drive me mad. I shall go to Canterbury and see Allen. He must speak out now, if only to defend himself from Joad. A week a week—seven days—and his life and my happiness to be saved in that short space of time. I must think; I must act. O Allen, Allen!"

She glanced at her watch. It was close on four o'clock. If she rode into Canterbury at once, she might find Allen at home. He usually came in between four and five to have tea. No one was likely to be present, so she would have him all to herself. At once she made up her mind, and without a word to Joad or to Mrs. Tice she went out of the house. In a few minutes she was spinning along the high road as fast as her machine could go.

Dora was right in her surmise. Allen was at home, and at tea. She went straight into the dining-room and saw him at the table. He looked up with an air of astonishment at her appearance; and, noting his pale and *startled* face, paled a pace. Was he guilty after all, or was the terror visible in his face merely the result of her sudden entrance? Without a word, she shut the door sharply, and took a seat by the side of the table. Allen welcomed her with an air of constraint. He offered her a cup of tea and a plate of cake. Dora pushed them both away in a state of fierce excitement, leant her arms on the table, and looked at him steadily. He stared at her in surprise, marvelling at her strange behaviour.

"Allen," she said abruptly, "what were you doing at the Red House on the night of the murder?"

The young man turned even paler than before, dropped the plates he was holding, and fell into his chair as though he had been shot. "Who—who says I was there?" he stammered.

"Mr. Joad—he accuses you."

"Accuses—me——" he could hardly get the words out—"accuses me—of what?"

"Of murdering Mr. Edermont. Allen, don't look at me like that. It is not true?"

"Dora," said Allen, shaking as with palsy, "I—I—I am—I am innocent. I—I swear—I'm innocent!"

CHAPTER XIV.—WHAT DR. SCOTT SAW.

Dora made no reply. In spite of his asseverations of inocence, she saw that he felt himself in a trap. His pallid face, his wild eyes, his trembling hands—all these signs hinted at a realization of his helpless position. Week by week since that fatal conversation he had grown thinner and more haggard. He was the shadow of the comely lover who had met her by the wayside, when she had taken him to see Edermont. He looked round the room, as though searching for some means of escape. One would have thought that the officers of the law were already at the door, and that he was guilty. Dora knew that this was not the case, but could not be sure until she heard his explanation. Suddenly he threw up his hands with a gesture of despair.

"I was mad on that night," he said in a hoarse tone.

Dora drew back with a gasp. Was he about to confess to the crime and allege temporary insanity by way of excuse? A violent trembling seized all her limbs, and she was obliged to lean against the table while waiting for his next words.

"You say Joad saw me?" he asked, looking at her. "Joad can denounce me?"

"No," she murmured, "he will not denounce you."

"But why should he show me such mercy?" cried Allen with haggard surprise. "He admires you; he is jealous of me. To get rid of me, he would willingly place a noose round my neck."

"That is true, Allen. But—you are safe from him. He—has asked me to be his wife."

"Ah!" said he, jealously seizing her hands. "And you—you——" No! He abruptly tossed her hands away. "You could never bring yourself to marry that wretch, even for £50,000."

"He does not wish for that money," said Dora, with a calmness which surprised herself; "he wants me."

"Like his insolence! Of course, you told him that such a thing was impossible?"

Dora raised her eyes to his with a look of pain.

"How could I?" she said slowly. "He saw you at the Red House on that night."

"Dora"—Allen again seized her hands—"you are sacrificing yourself to save me?"

"I can do no less, Allen. I love you. Ah!" she cried with a burst of tears, "you will never know how I love you. I have suffered from your cruelty, your desertion, from your strange silence, but I still love you, as I have always done. As I cannot be your wife and make you happy, I can still marry this man and save you from the consequences of your crime."

"Dora! You do not believe that I am guilty?"

"No, Allen, no; still, I cannot understand. You have refused me your confidence; you say you were mad on that night. Morally speaking, you are innocent, I am certain. But still, in a moment of anger——"

"I swear that I did not touch him!" cried Allen violently. "I admit that I was at the Red House on that night. He asked me to come."

"I guessed that. Joad posted a letter to you."

"Yes, yes. Wait!" He ran into the next room, wherein his desk was standing, and in two minutes he returned with a paper. "This is the letter. You see, Edermont asked me to come at midnight to the Red House—to enter by the postern gate, which he left open for my admittance."

"He wished to add something to the conversation of the week before," said Dora, reading the letter. "But, my poor Allen, this letter rather condemns than saves you. It shows conclusively that you had an appointment at the Red House at midnight. And Mr. Edermont was killed at 1 o'clock."

"I don't know at what hour he was killed," rejoined Allen, taking back the letter with a gloomy air. "As I told you, I was mad on that night. I lost all idea of time. Whether I was in his study at 12 or 1 I cannot say, but when I did enter I saw him dead."

"Allen!" Dora uttered a cry of horror. "You saw him dead?"

"He was lying on the floor near the bureau," said Scott, speaking rapidly. "I see him now in my mind's eye—a limp heap, with his white hair dappled with blood. The Zulu club, torn from the savage weapons which decorated the walls, lay near him; his pistol was on the other side. He was dead—dead! Ah, God, dead!"

During this recital Dora had sunk into a chair, overcome by the vehemence of his words. Allen strode to and fro, swinging his long arms, with a look of horror on his worn, white face. He pressed his hands to his eyes, as if to shut out the scene which his too vivid fancy had painted. Half swooning, Dora uttered a sob, and the next moment Allen was on his knees beside her, covering her hands with passionate and burning kisses.

"My queen! my saint!" he said hurriedly; "and you would sacrifice yourself for me. You would marry this drunkard, this parasite, this vile reptile, to save me from danger! No, Dora, I have been weak and foolish, but I am not guilty. You shall not shield me at the cost of your own ruin. Oh, if I could only tell you all! But I dare not, I dare not!"

Carried away by his passion, angered at the sense of his weakness, he could have kissed her feet. But Dora placed her hand on his forehead, and reasoned calmly with him. He was not to be saved by giving way to such whirlwinds of passion and despair. The prospect was terrible, but they must face it boldly. Allen was innocent. He said so, and she believed him. That was everything. If he were not guilty, they might find a way out of the trap into which he had stumbled. To do so, she must know exactly what took place on that fatal night, and to this end she addressed her frenzied lover.

"Allen," she said gravely, "this is not the way to save yourself from arrest, or me from a disgraceful marriage. I have obtained a week's time from Joad to think matters over. In seven days we can do a great deal, and we may see a way out of this terrible situation. Sit down beside me, and tell me exactly what you did on that night."

"I shall not sit down beside you, Dora. I shall remain at your feet. Ah, heaven! to think of that cruel bar which prevents our marriage! You should know all, but I have not the courage to tell you."

"Keep silent on that point," said Dora soothingly. "What I want to know now is the story of that night. You returned from London on the second, did you not?"

"Yes," he replied in a tired voice. "Is that conversation I had with Edermont he made certain statements which I could not believe. He said I could verify them in London, and told me how and where I could do so. I could not rest until I knew the truth, therefore I caught the express at Selling and went to town. Alas, alas! I found that he had spoken only too truly, and that you could never be my wife."

Repressing the curiosity which devoured her to learn the terrible secret of which he spoke, Dora smoothed his hair gently and asked him to relate what had taken place on his return from this mysterious errand. He obeyed her like a child.

"When I came home," he said with thoughtful deliberation, "I found that letter I showed you awaiting me. Edermont asked me to see him in his study at midnight on the second of the month. But how he knew that I should return on that day, I cannot guess."

"I can explain," said Dora quietly. "You wrote and told me when you would return, and I showed the letter to my guardian."

"Why did you do that, Dora—especially when you knew about our quarrel?"

"I wished to point out to Mr. Edermont that you had gone to London," replied Dora, "and, if possible, induce him to explain your reason for going there."

"Ah, he knew my reason well enough," said Allen, with a frown; "but I suppose he refused to tell you what it was."

"Naturally. He refused to tell me anything. But now you know how Mr. Edermont learnt the date of your return, and appointed that midnight meeting for the date. Go on, Allen."

"I was pleased to get his invitation," continued Allen, picking up the thread of his story, "as I fancied he might confess something further, likely to ameliorate the distressing situation in which I was placed by his previous revelations. I determined, therefore, to obey the summons; but as it yet wanted three hours till midnight, the thought of the delay worked me into a fever of anxiety. The hopes, the fears, the vague terrors which beset me drove me nearly wild. I declare, Dora, that I was like a madman. A hundred ideas came into my head, as to how I might do away with the effects of Edermont's secret and regain you. But one and all were dismissed, and I felt more helpless than ever. Only one man could put matters right, and that was the man who put them wrong; so there was nothing left for me but to wait until I saw him at midnight."

"Had you any idea that a third person might be present at your meeting?"

"Not even that. As you see, there is no mention of a third person in the letter, nor did I see a third person in the study. Only the dead man's corpse. Ugh!"—Allen shuddered—"I shall never forget that horrible sight."

"It was gruesome enough in the morning," said Dora with a shiver, "so it must have been doubly horrifying at night. Well, did you remain indoors until you went to the Red House?"

"No, I could not rest; I could not bear the confinement. I felt that I must be up and doing; so in sheer despair I went out on my bicycle. Where I went I do not know. The night was as bright as day with the rays of the moon; and I had sufficient sense to guide the machine rightly, while running blindly along, not knowing or caring whither I was going. I went up hill and down dale along those weary roads, until I wore myself out. Physically exhausted—for I must have been riding at nearly top speed for hours—I turned in the direction of Chillum. At what time I got there I do not know."

"You had your watch with you?"

"Yes, but my then perturbed state of mind it never struck me to look at it."

"Mr. Joad says he saw you pass his cottage shortly before twelve o'clock."

"It might have been," said Allen indifferently, "but to my mind it was nearer one o'clock. Indeed, it must have been for according to your showing the murder was committed about that time, and when I entered the study I found Edermont dead."

"Dead! Poor soul!" cried Dora, clasping her hands.

"The postern gate was open," continued Allen rapidly. "Also the side door of that deserted drawing-room. This did not surprise me, as I had been led to expect from the letter that the way would be clear for me to enter. When I went into the study, I was struck with horror at the sight. A candle, wasted nearly to the socket, was burning on the bureau. The desk itself was locked and smashed, and the drawers forced open, as you saw it in the morning. Hundreds of letters and papers were scattered about, some on the bureau itself, others on the floor, and in the midst of all this disorder lay the ghastly dead body, terrible to look at in the pale glimmer of the expiring candle. The pistol was on one side, the knob-kerrie on the other, and the dead man, with his face and head beaten and disfigured, lay between——"

"Did you hear any one or see any one?"

"I heard nothing. I saw nothing. The door leading to the hall was closed, and there was no sign of the assassin. I saw in a flash the terrible position in which I was placed. I had quarrelled with Edermont, and here I was in his private room at midnight, standing beside his dead body. I might be accused of the murder, and condemned on circumstantial evidence; for on the face of it I could make no defence. As I looked with horror on the scene, with these thoughts in my mind, the candle flamed up in one expiring flash, then died out in a blue flicker. I was alone in the darkness with the dead man; and seized with a sudden panic—surely excusable under the circumstances—I turned and fled rapidly. In two minutes I was on my bicycle, running full speed for Canterbury. That is all I know, Dora."

Dora considered for a few moments after he had finished. "You are sure that there was nobody else in the Red House on that night?" she asked after a pause.

Allen hesitated. "I did not intend to speak," he murmured; "but for my own sake I must tell you all. When I was coming into Chillum, I met a woman going towards Canterbury on a bicycle——"

"A woman, Allen? And at midnight—alone? Who was she?"

"At the time I passed her I did not know," said the doctor, rising; "but on my return journey, when I had left the house after the murder, I met her again, by the railway bridge. She was wheeling the machine down the hill, and called to me to help her. The tyre of her back wheel was punctured. I

Question Bureau.

RULES.—1.—Real name and address must be written with every question. 2.—Only one question at a time. 3.—Don't ask for addresses of persons, or firms, nor where to buy or sell anything, for such answers are free advertising. 4.—Don't ask about the reliability of any person or firm. 5.—We reserve the right to reject any question whose answer would not be of general interest; and will answer no mathematical problems, questions of law, etc. 6.—No answers by mail.

Debt-Paying and Debt-Making.

"Please state the amount of indebtedness Harrison paid off while President; also the amount of indebtedness Cleveland has incurred during his four years, to settle a dispute with the Democrats here."—E. R., Brandon, Va.

We are tired of this question. We answered it in full in The Blade six times during the campaign, and twice since. However, we shall give it once more, and then refer all further inquiries to this issue for the answer.

The figures are official. They were secured for us from the treasury department by The Blade's Washington correspondent.

The first table gives the net surplus in the treasury at the dates of the three inaugurations. The term "net surplus" means all the money in the treasury, not counting the gold, silver and currency held against certificates, nor the gold reserve:

SURPLUS IN THE TREASURY.

March 4, 1885—Cleveland's inauguration	$199,744,172
March 4, 1889—Harrison's inauguration	266,404,441
March 4, 1893—Cleveland's inauguration	124,128,089

During Cleveland's first term, the money accumulated in the treasury, under the action of a Republican protective tariff. The Democrats had not control of both houses of Congress, and so could not enact a free trade law. Under Harrison, the McKinley law was passed. It was passed because of a demand that the revenues should be reduced, as the government did not need as much as the law then in force was bringing in. So the surplus at the end of Harrison's term was much smaller than that at the end of Cleveland's first term. The surplus which Harrison found when he entered office was used in paying off bonds and in buying bonds which had not matured, thus saving the treasury many millions in interest. Then another large sum was saved by refunding bonds, at 2 per cent. Here is the bond statement:

BONDS PAID AND RETIRED.

Bonds cancelled and retired, Harrison's term, 1889-92	$259,071,960
Bonds refunded, Harrison's term.	25,364,500
Bonds cancelled and retired, Cleveland's second term	NONE.

The next item—and we have received many inquiries about it—is the total amount of gold in the treasury at the dates of these three inaugurations. These figures, in each case, include the $100,000,000 gold reserve:

TOTAL GOLD IN TREASURY.

March 4, 1885	$127,346,553
March 4, 1889	106,245,980
March 4, 1893	103,284,219

Note that the bonded debt was not increased from 1877 until 1893, in Cleveland's present term. Here is a table showing the burden placed on the people of the United States by the bond issues under Cleveland. This is the total cost of the bond issues—the principal of each issue, and the interest up to the time the bonds become due:

CLEVELAND'S DEBT MAKING.

1894 (February)	$ 50,000,000
Interest 10 years, 5 per cent.	25,000,000
1894 (November)	50,000,000
Interest 9½ years, 5 per cent.	23,750,000
1895	62,315,400
Interest, 30 years, 4 per cent.	74,778,480
1896	100,000,000
Interest, 29 years, 4 per cent.	116,000,000
Total increase of debt	$501,143,880

Those Demand Notes.

"A Popocrat friend of mine claims the first issue of greenbacks never depreciated in value like the later issues. Is this correct?"—J. A. B., Trinway, O.

We are very, very tired of this question. We have answered it four or five times a year for the past several years. The Populists have been talking about an issue of demand notes, made a year before the first greenback law was passed; and this they ignorantly call "the first issue of greenbacks," when the fact is they were not greenbacks at all, no more than National bank notes are greenbacks.

The Congress, by act of July 17, 1861, authorized the issue of $60,000,000 of "demand notes." They were payable on demand; they were receivable in payment of public dues; but they were not legal tender for anything else.

They were entirely different from the greenbacks. The greenbacks were not redeemable on demand; they were not receivable for duties on imports; and they were a legal tender for all other debts.

In order to carry on the war large issues of bonds were necessary; and to find sale for them the interest had to be made payable in gold. The only way the government, at that time, could get gold, was by making all duties on imports payable in gold. Hence the provision that the greenbacks were not receivable for that purpose.

Now, the simple reason why the demand notes did not depreciate was, that any one could take them to the treasury and get gold for them. This could not be done with the greenbacks; for as there was (and is) no provision on their face stating when they are to be paid, they were only payable when the government chose to pay them. The demand notes could not be reissued. If once paid into the treasury, they were cancelled and destroyed. Hence, they were speedily paid in, cancelled, and heard of no more.

Production of Silver.

"A stock argument of the silverites is that there is no more silver produced in the United States now than before 1873, as compared with the production of gold now and then. Will you please give us light on this point?"—W. E. L., Bellevue, Mo.

We give the amounts produced in the years from 1870 to 1873, and for the last four years for which the official statistics are at hand. The figures are official, from the report of the Director of the United States mint:

	Gold.	Silver.
1870	$50,000,000	$16,000,000
1871	43,500,000	23,000,000
1872	36,000,000	28,750,000
1873	36,000,000	35,750,000
1891	$33,175,000	$75,416,565
1892	33,000,000	82,101,010
1893	35,955,000	77,575,757
1894	39,500,000	64,000,000

These figures, as you see, completely cover the argument of the silverites. The decline in silver is the measure of the increased production, not only in the United States, but in the world.

Furthermore, if there were in the entire world just sixteen times as much silver as gold, and the mines of the world produced each year exactly sixteen times as much silver as gold, that would not make the ratio of 16 to 1 a correct one. The ratio is between the values, not the amount produced. The corn crop of the United States was just about three times the wheat crop, in bushels, yet that did not make a ratio of three to one between their prices. Corn sold the day this is written in Toledo at 21 cents, and wheat at 58 cents—a ratio of 1 to 1. Two months ago the ratio was about 5 to 1. It is the same with all other products, and the same with gold and silver. The price of gold is fixed by demand and supply; so is that of silver. If gold rises, silver does not rise, nor does it fall. If silver rises, gold does not fall or rise, as a result.

Silver and Gold.

"How many times as much silver as gold (by weight) is there in the world?"—E. G. S., Livermore, Pa.

Soetbeer's tables, quoted on pages 30 and 81 of circular No. 123, of the U. S. Treasury department, gives the total production in the world of the two metals, since the discovery of America in 1492, as follows:

	Fine ounces.
Gold	424,900,202
Silver	8,011,122,035

That would make about 19 times as much silver as gold by weight. This, however, is no argument for any ratio. The coinage ratio is between values, not between quantities produced. See answer elsewhere headed, "Production of Silver."

The Standard Yard.

"Is the yard— 36 inches—the standard of measure in the United States, and if so, how was it obtained? Was it suggested by any principle in nature? Will a pendulum just 36 inches long beat seconds correctly at sea level at the earth's equator?"—C. W. S., Newark, O.

Yes, the yard is the standard of measure, and we derived it from England. The colonists brought their weights and measures with them. The yard was not "suggested by any principle in nature." It was originally the length of the arm of an early English king. The foot, as the name implies, was from the length of the human foot. The first real standard yard was made in 1758 and 1760. By statute of 1826, in England, the length of a pendulum of brass, at a temperature of 62 degrees Fahrenheit, beating seconds, in a vacuum, in the latitude of London, should be deemed 39.1393 inches, of which 36 inches should be the standard yard.

Blennerhassett and Burr.

"The writer was on a voyage down the Ohio river and in passing Blennerhassett's Island it was commented on. Now will you kindly publish a sketch of the troubles of Blennerhassett and how Aaron Burr came to be associated with him?"—A. C., Ottumwa, Iowa.

Harman Blennerhassett was born in England in 1764 or 1765, and studied law. Traveling in Europe during the French revolution, he imbibed Republican ideas, and decided to settle in the United States. He married Adeline Agnew, daughter of the lieutenant governor of the Isle of Man, and sailed in 1797 for New York. In 1798 he purchased the island which bears his name, in the Ohio, a few miles below Parkersburg, where he built a spacious mansion, fitted up with costly furniture, pictures, statues and library. Aaron Burr visited him in 1805, and got him interested in his scheme to become emperor of Mexico, the real nature of which it is believed Blennerhassett did not know. He spent large sums in buying boats, provisions, arms, etc., for the expedition. When President Jefferson issued his proclamation against Burr, Blennerhassett, fearing arrest, left home and joined Burr. When Burr's scheme fell through, Blennerhassett was arrested, and taken to Richmond on a charge of treason. He was discharged in 1807. The island meanwhile had been seized by his creditors, and the house was afterward accidentally burned. He finally went to the Island of Guernsey in the English Channel, where he died in poverty.

Troy and Avoirdupois.

"Please tell me through your paper why 12 oz. Troy make a lb. and 16 oz. avoirdupois? Why not 16 oz. of each?"—W. H., Vernon, Ala.

The ounce Troy and the ounce avoirdupois are not the same thing, nor do they weigh the same. The pound Troy weighs 5,760 grains, the pound avoirdupois 7,000 grains. The Troy ounce is therefore 480 grains, the avoirdupois ounce, 437.5 grains. They are different systems of weight, and both should be abolished in favor of the metric system.

Theodosia Burr.

"What became of Theodosia Burr, daughter of Aaron Burr?"

Theodosia Burr was born in 1783, and was one of the most highly accomplished and brilliant American women of her day. In 1801 she married Joseph Alston, a wealthy and talented young planter of South Carolina, who afterwards became governor of that state. She and her husband knew of Burr's scheme to become emperor of Mexico; her son was to be heir to the throne. When her father was brought to trial at Richmond, she was there, and did much by the power of her beauty and intellectual graces to stay the torrent of public indignation, and secure a favorable verdict. Shortly after her son died in his eleventh year, and this blow prostrated her with nervous fever. Her father had just returned to New York from exile, and, anxious to see him once more, she embarked at Charleston from New York, December 29, 1812, on the pilot boat Patriot. A storm soon arose and raged along the coast. Nothing was ever heard of the Patriot, and she undoubtedly went down in the storm with all on board.

Tennessee's Congressmen.

M. H. P., Casey, Tenn.: The two Senators from Tennessee are Wm. B. Bate and Isham G. Harris. The following table gives the representatives in the Fifty-fourth Congress, whose terms expire on March 4, and those of the Fifty-fifth Congress, whose terms then begin. The first column is the number of the district. D. stands for Democrat, and R. for Republican:

1.	W. C. Anderson, R.	W. P. Brownlow, R.
2.	H. R. Gibson, R.	R. R. Gibson, R.
3.	F. V. Brown, R.	J. A. Moon, D.
4.	B. McMillin, D.	B. McMillin, D.
5.	J. J. Richardson, D.	J. D. Richardson, D.
6.	J. E. Washington, D.	J. W. Gaines, D.
7.	N. N. Cox, D.	N. N. Cox, D.
8.	J. E. McCall, R.	T. W. Sims, D.
9.	J. C. McDearman, D.	J. C. Pierce, D.
10.	J. Patterson, D.	E. W. Carmack, D.

McKinley's District.

"I hold the stakes on a bet that Major McKinley would not carry his own Congressional district. Did he, and if so, by how much?"—A. Hull, McLoud, Okla.

The Eighteenth Congressional district of Ohio, in which Major McKinley lives (at Canton, Stark county), is composed of the counties of Columbiana, Mahoning and Stark. The vote on Presidential electors on November 3 last was as follows:

	McKinley electors.	Bryan electors.	All others.
Columbiana	9,487	6,598	271
Mahoning	8,529	6,772	104
Stark	12,110	11,339	155
Totals	30,126	24,609	530

McKinley's plurality over Bryan, 5,517; McKinley's majority over all, 4,987.

Pension Money.

"In the New York Tribune of January 27, some one asks about the exemption from taxation of property bought with pension money. The answer in part is: 'Pension money itself is by law specifically exempt from levy under execution, * * *' Another specific provision of the statutes is that property not subject to levy is exempt from taxation.'

"Now, Mrs. John Smith recently received a pension from our government with $400 back pay; the latter she put out on interest, secured by mortgage. Will it be her duty, at the coming spring assessment, to report the $400 for tax purposes?"—Veteran, Wooster, O.

The Tribune's answer should have stated that the exemption applies to some of the state laws of New York, which, of course, do not affect any other state. There is no law of Congress on the subject, and no such provision in the laws of Ohio; hence, the lady's duty is to report the $400 for taxation.

Retiring Greenbacks.

"Please explain fully why greenbacks should be retired."—J. H. S., Aurora, Ore.

A greenback, like any other note, is a promise to pay merely. It must be redeemable in coin on demand, in order to be at par. To be prepared to redeem it, the treasury must keep a quantity of coin on hand as a reserve. It does not matter whether we are on a gold or a silver basis; in either case a coin reserve would be wisely kept.

At present, whenever a merchant or importer wants gold, he can take greenbacks to the treasury and have them redeemed. Then they are reissued, being paid out for government expenses, and can be used over and over again to draw gold out of the treasury. By retiring them, the government would be relieved of the need of maintaining a coin reserve. As it is, the greenbacks have cost the government far more than any other form of debt.

Without Names.

Again we must ask all who write to the Bureau to put their names and postoffice addresses on the sheet containing their question. We have received a dozen such questions, received this week, which we can not answer. One very important one, which we should be glad to answer, is signed with initials, and has no address. Under the rules, the editor of the Bureau is not permitted to answer it. It apparently was inclosed in another letter, probably an order for the paper. All such letters are opened in the counting-room, by the business manager, and any question inclosed is sent to the room of the editor of this department. The other letter remains down stairs, of course, to be attended to by the business office. A little attention to this rule will prevent disappointment.

Intrinsic Value.

"Please explain through the columns of your paper the meaning of the words 'intrinsic value' in money and other articles of exchange."—A. C. H., Oregon, Wis.

"Intrinsic value" simply means the market value of the material of which the article is composed. The intrinsic value of a sack of flour is what it is worth in the market, not the brand on the sack. The Blade, for the past two years, has never used the words "intrinsic value" in discussing the money question. We have used "market price" or "market value," or "commercial value" instead. The value of a coin of final redemption is always fixed by the market price of the bullion. Whatever the bullion in a coin will sell for is the value of the coin.

The "Eastern Question."

J. A. G., Bois d'Arc, Mo.: The phrase, "Eastern question," in European diplomacy, means just this: What shall eventually become of Turkey?" and, when the Turkish empire falls, as it must eventually, what nation will be permitted to take possession of Constantinople, which controls the Black Sea, and from which any European power could be one of the masters of the Mediterranean.

Ever since the time of Peter the Great, Russia has desired to obtain it. Germany, Austria, France and Great Britain, for the past 50 years, have prevented her taking steps to obtain it, because it would give Russia too much power in Europe. It would give her such military and naval advantages that she would become a menace to the other nations of Europe.

International Date Line.

"What is the international date line?"—A. R. R., Baxter, Ark.

The international date line is a line running from Bering strait southward through the Pacific ocean to the Antarctic ocean, and fixed by international action, on crossing which the ships of all civilized nations drop a day from or add a day to their reckoning.

If a man started from a given point and went on and traveled westward just as fast as the sun, it would be noon with him until he got back to his starting point. But when he arrived he would find it Tuesday noon. Similarly, a ship sailing westward around the earth, on completing her voyage, will find her reckoning one day short. If she sailed eastward around the earth her reckoning would be a day in advance. Hence the establishment of the international date line.

Edward Payson Roe.

"Please give a short sketch of the life (and also his works) of E. P. Roe. What was, or is, his creed, if any?"—E. W., Salem, Mo.

Edward Payson Roe was born in Orange county, New York, in 1838; studied Cornwall, N. Y., 1858. He was educated in Williams college, but not graduated, owing to weak eyes. He studied for the ministry, and became a chaplain in the Union army in 1862, remaining till 1865. He then became pastor of a Presbyterian church at Highland Falls, N. Y., and he afterward entered the lecture field. He visited the ruins of Chicago after the great fire, and wrote a novel, Barriers Burned Away, which was so successful he left the ministry and settled at Cornwall in 1874, devoting himself to story writing and the culture of small fruits.

The Bicycle.

"Where, when and by whom was the bicycle invented? What was the production and sale for each year, from beginning, in the United States?"—W. S. C., El Campo, Tex.

The modern bicycle is the development of a centuries-old two-wheeled vehicle was then used, with a seat just high enough to let the rider's feet touch the ground. It was propelled by walking, the wheels carrying the rider's weight. The velocipede came into vogue in the '70's. Ten years later the high wheel bicycle was invented, and the safety came into use about six years ago. There are no statistics of production which we can reach. About a half million were made in the United States in 1896.

Books of the Bible.

"What does tradition say is the reason that our Bible does not contain all of the books of the Old Testament, and how were the books that are in our Bible accepted?"—J. E. W., Independence, Kan.

The books of the Old Testament, as given in the Bible used by all Protestant churches, are the books which the Jews themselves considered authoritative. The traditions of the Jews ascribe to Ezra and the "great synagogue" the work of collecting these books. The Catholic church also considers as part of the Old Testament the books called the Apocrypha. These, however, were not considered as authoritative by the Jews, and the Protestant churches do not accept them.

The Supreme Court.

"What are the names of the Supreme judges of the United States, and who was the one, if alone, or who were the members of the Supreme bench who passed on the case of the Chicago rioters, for which the Supreme court was so severely censured by the Populist party? What is Judge Caldwell's official rank?"—B. F. H., Rosedale, Kan.

The Supreme court is now composed of Melville W. Fuller, chief justice, and Associate Justices Stephen J. Field, John H. Harlan, Horace Gray, David J. Brewer, Henry B. Brown, George Shiras, jr., Edward D. White and Rufus W. Peckham. The entire bench passed on the Chicago rioters. Judge Henry C. Caldwell, of Arkansas, is circuit judge of the United States for the Eighth circuit.

The "Blue-Grass Region."

"Oblige me very much by informing me through your valuable paper as to what counties in Kentucky are claimed to be in what is known as the blue-grass region."—B. F. S., Pekin, Ill.

The "blue-grass region" of Kentucky is an upland region which extends from the Ohio river, at a point about 40 miles above Louisville, and the eastern limit of Mason county, about 10 miles above Maysville, southwardly to the Cumberland river.

The Compass Needle.

"What reason, if any, does science give for the needle of the compass pointing north, and why does it ever vary?"—I. F. C., Zona, W. Va.

The needle acts the same as a steel or iron bar, suspended so as to move freely, acts when brought near a magnet. It ranges itself parallel thereto. Two magnetic needles brought together, arrange themselves side by side, the north pole of one being attracted by the south pole of the other, and vice versa. The earth acts like a huge magnet, whose ends are at the magnetic poles. These magnetic poles are slowly changing their places, and, of course, every compass needle changes its direction in the same manner, pointing to the north magnetic pole.

Church Organizations.

L. H. T., Horse Creek, Tenn.: The Epworth League was formed in May, 1889, by the union of five societies then existing in the Methodist Episcopal church. There are now 21,183 chapters in the United States, and 121 abroad, with a total membership of about 1,500,000. The Methodist Episcopal church South has an Epworth League with 3,500 chapters and 147,500 members.

The Young People's Christian Union of the United Brethren church was organized June 5, 1890. There are 1,770 societies, with 70,554 members.

The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was formed at Williston, Maine, February 2, 1881, by Rev. F. E. Clark. It has now 56,922 societies in the United States, 3,333 in the Dominion of Canada, and 6,734 foreign, with a total membership of 2,800,000.

Waterproofing Cloth.

"Please tell me how to waterproof cloth. Something that will also do as a dressing for a storm coat, or slicker that needs repairing."—P. S., Tekonsha, Mich.

Who can send us a reliable formula for the above? We can find nothing satisfactory.

Sam Patch.

"Please give a biographical sketch of Sam Patch, the notorious jumper of Niagara Falls."—H. A. F., Newton, Wis.

Sam Patch was killed in a jump at Genesee Falls, New York, we think. He never jumped at Niagara. We know nothing of his life. If any reader will send a short one, we will gladly publish it.

Miscellaneous.

N. E. W., Spring Lick, Ky.: There are silk worms raised in the United States, but we do not know the persons engaged in the business; and if we did, the editor of the Question Bureau could not publish their address. See Rules above.

W. G. T., York, Neb.: The dry plate process of photography being in general use, a description of the wet plate process would not be of general interest. Any photographer will give you the names of photographic publishers who can furnish you cheap handbooks describing the process.

R. L., Oakley, Kan.: No one knows whether Job or Solomon was the richer; probably the latter, because Job's riches was largely in flocks and herds, while Solomon's was in gold and silver and precious stones.

W. P. K., Nasbie, W. Va.: Look in Farmstead for your answer.

A. F., Olean, Mo.: The Blade has not dealt in books for many years. We have no idea where you can obtain the book you mention.

M. F., Port Huron, Mich.: The story about witches at Richfield Center, near Toledo, is a newspaper "fake." There is no truth in it.

Well Named.

"Why does Mrs. Wildgirl call her husband 'the Cipher? Doesn't he count at all in his own home?"

"Oh, yes; it's because he is so noughty."—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Naturally.

Nurse Girl—I lost track of the child, mum.

Mistress—Good gracious! Why didn't you speak to a policeman?

Nurse Girl—I wuz speaking to wan all the toime, mum.—London Pearson's Weekly.

Impure

Blood is the prime cause of most of our bodily ills, but it is often difficult to convince people their blood is impure, until dreadful carbuncles, abscesses, boils, scrofula or salt rheum, are painful proof of the fact. It is wisdom now, or whenever there is any indication of impure blood, to take Hood's Sarsaparilla, and prevent such eruptions and suffering.

"I had a dreadful carbuncle abscess, red, fiery, fierce and sore. The doctor attended me over seven weeks. When

Blood

the abscess broke the pains were terrible, and I thought I should not live through it. I heard and read so much about Hood's Sarsaparilla that I decided to take it, and my husband, who was suffering with boils, took it also. Hood's Sarsaparilla purified our blood, built me up and restored my health so that, although the doctor said I would not be able to work hard, I have since done the work for 20 people. Hood's Sarsaparilla cured my husband of the boils, and we regard it a wonderful medicine." MRS. ANNA PETERSON, Latimer, Kansas.

Hood's

Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists, $1. Prepared only by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to operate. 25c.

VARIOUS THINGS

WHICH ARE THOUGHT OF AND OTHERS THAT ARE HAPPENING.

Most of Them Are of Especial Interest to Women, but Everybody Will Find Something New.

Cherish your body, for God made it great;
It has a guest of might and high estate;
Keep the shrine noble, handsome, high and whole,
For in it lives God's work, a kingly soul.
—James Bartlett Wiggin.

Miss Frances Wilard has recently been compiling facts as to the progress of women in the world of industry. At the meeting of the purity conference of the Women's Christian Temperance Union in St. Louis this compilation was made public. It includes the work of women in religious, philanthropic, educational, political, medical, legal, literary and artistic circles. The facts are most interesting. The women in the Methodist Episcopal church have in the last four years collected for missionary purposes almost two millions of dollars, over one million for foreign missions, and over seven hundred thousand for home missions. The women of this church maintain fifty-one deaconesses' homes, fifteen of which are in foreign lands. The deaconesses work without salaries. In the Congregational church there are thirty-one regularly ordained Congregational ministers and pastors who are women. Miss Willard speaks in this compilation of the scholarship maintained by women within the last few years, especially in the universities of Germany. She states that of the four hundred and fifty-one colleges and universities in the United States only forty-one are closed to women. One-fourth of the fellowships of the University of Chicago are held by women. These scholarships represent eleven states and fourteen colleges and universities. Twenty-five states have given the educational ballot to women, one the municipal, and three—Wyoming, Colorado and Utah—have given them full franchise. There are 37,910 women physicians and nurses in England. The most interesting part of Miss Willard's compilation shows unusual employments of women. For instance, three young women are proprietors of a large restaurant in the chamber of commerce building in Cincinnati. They pay for rent and services $10,000 a year. A woman has just opened a bakery at Circle City on the Yukon River, Alaska. There are twenty women lighthouse keepers.—New York Journal.

Girls didn't wear a tailor suit,
Mannish gloves and calfskin boot,
Drive four-in-hand, and smoke and shoot
In Mamma's day.

Maids never yearned for politics,
Nor rode a wheel, like Toms and Dicks,
Nor tore around, with big golf sticks,
In Mamma's day.

They couldn't swim with grace and ease,
In bathing suits cut to their knees,
And sail a boat through stormy seas,
In Mamma's day.

From what I have been told, and know,
Life must have been quite dull and slow
In that pathetic long ago—
In Mamma's day.
—Life.

A very potent and marvelous uplifting to the diviner world is the invariable experience after one most beloved has gone on into the invisible realm. It is then that a readjustment of relations takes place. It is life that separates; it is death that unites. While the spirit is inhabiting the physical body it is screened, imprisoned, as it were; and the assertion of a German philosopher, that no man ever saw or ever was seen by his fellow man, is literally true.

"You do not see my friend at all;
You see what hides him from your sight,"

well writes a poet. "Spiritual things are spiritually discerned," and to recognize each other truly, even while here, we must all be discerners of spirits. Life is just as sacred as death. We are building up our spiritual relationships and conditions every hour and every day; and to just the degree in which one can live in the spirit here, and regard all his friendships as spiritual relationships,—so to that extent does he transcend death, and establish, here and now, the conditions that this change can not destroy nor greatly affect.

When the spiritual being that has lived a certain period here slips out of its physical body and is free from material clogs and limitations, a readjustment of all relationships here takes place. Those who still remain in this world are far more privileged, some have been unduly appreciated; some have been underestimated. The risen spiritual being, now being able to discern spiritual states and to adjust all to a new scale of values, rearranges his loves and friendships, so to speak. In fact, here is the type of the judgment day.

Instead of any sadness or despair when death comes near to us, the true view is simply one of exaltation and of happiness, heretofore undreamed.

"Now I can see thee truly,
For nothing comes between
The senses and the spirit,
The Seen and the Unseen."

The evidence of immortality, and of sweet, swift communion between the visible and the invisible worlds, is in one's own soul.—Lilian Whiting, in Boston Budget.

Mother—Charlie, you said you'd been to Sunday school.

Charlie (with a far-away look)—Yes'm.

Mother—How does it happen that your hands smell fishy?

Charlie—I—I carried home the Sunday school paper, an' th' outside is all about Jonah and the whale.—Tit-Bits.

Mrs. S. T. Pickard, niece of Whittier, is in Amesbury, Mass., caring for the poet's estate. The Whittier portraits and a portion of the furnishings have been removed to the Pickards's home, where they will be cared for. Before removing anything, the location of portraits, pictures and furniture was carefully indexed, with a view to some future time when the house may become permanently a "Whittier memorial," so that they can be restored as in Mr. Whittier's days. The library has not been disturbed, and will remain in every detail as the poet left it.—Woman's Journal.

The materials from which gloves have been manufactured are many and varied. Iron gauntlets of the Middle Ages, embroidered leather and jewel-set gloves of later times, gloves of hair, linen, velvet, satin and taffety, gloves perfumed, washed, waxed and glazed, are to be found in the list. They have been made from horse hides, walrus hides, and even from the skin of whales; from the fibres of nettles woven like flax into thread, and from asbestos fibres, so that, like the napkins described by Pliny, they were cleaned merely by being thrown into the fire. Gloves have been made, too, from the silky byssus, the fibres secreted by certain mollusks by which they attach themselves to rocks, and a pair of gloves woven from this curious substance were presented to Pope Benedict XIV.

It is said that the Scandinavian women are much less well off than the American women, and what are the facts? In some respects, yes, but to cite a few exceptions that might be gladly embraced by even the protected women of the United States, who indolently and, possibly, from the working woman's point of view, insolently declare the present privileges of women preferable to their rights—a law made centuries back by a king, who, having three successive times received for his state necessities the jewels and possessions of the women of his realm, still guarantees to northern women the "mother's portion," viz.: one-half of the husband's property to their joint issue on the mother's death, in the event of the father's second marriage. The practical advantage of this law is surely in the avoidance of painful and unjust conditions, because of temptations that ordinarily good men are sometimes capable of yielding to, with us are demonstrably guarded against, and the qualities of justice and consideration instead are noticeably cultivated in consequence. The single standard of morals subscribed to as scientific and obligatory for health and happiness by the faculty of medicine of the University of Christiania, and the formal address of welcome in the presence of the full faculty extended to the first women students of that university, are evidences that the modern spirit of the Northmen towards women is worthy of the tradition of the ancient regard and respect of the old Norsemen.—Cambridge Chronicle.

January first, 'tis then
All begin to make them;
January second's when
Most begin to break them.
—Washington Star.

—Experience proves the merit of Hood's Sarsaparilla. It cures all forms of blood diseases, tones the stomach, builds up the nerves.

A MISREPRESENTED BIRD.

A champion of the ostrich has arisen, and declares in a current magazine that for the last few thousand years that bird has been horribly and pathetically misrepresented.

It seems that the ostrich of reality, Pliny and all other writers to the contrary, is neither stupid, cruel, cowardly, savage nor especially fleet. He does not hide his head and suppose himself to be entirely concealed; neither does his spouse allow the sun to hatch her eggs. In short, almost all our time-hallowed beliefs about this cruelly maligned bird are convincingly demonstrated to be mere fairy tales.

There are only three ostrich-raising farms in the United States. The largest is in California, near Los Angeles, and contains nearly 200 native birds, the original stock of African ostriches having died off, unable to survive the change of climate. The chicks from now on are expected to increase at the rate of about 100 a year.

The breeding birds are very vicious during the laying season, and attendants who are obliged to enter the corrals do so in fear of their lives. The ostrich has at command a terribly quick and very powerful forward and downward blow with his feet, and has been known to injure horses so severely that they had to be shot.

The average ostrich is over seven feet high, weighs between 250 and 300 pounds and lives about seventy years. Its ordinary food is alfalfa hay and sugar beets, and its appetite is not very large. The feed for one cow would support ten ostriches. "The digestion of an ostrich" is an allusion to the fact that the long-legged bird has a habit of picking up pebbles, ground bones and other hard substances which are used to grind the food in his stomach.

About 300 feathers are plucked from each full-grown bird every eight or nine months. The most valuable are those long white plumes which grow on the wings of the male. The rest of the feathers are drab on the female and black on the male. The feathers from each bird bring in about $30 a year to the producer, and the cost of keeping the birds is comparatively small.

A Consolation Gone.

"How's yer wife?" inquired one of the farmers who was coming in to the market.

"She's perfectly well, seems like," replied Uncle Rufus. "You don't seem pertickler pleased about it?"

"Well, I like 'er to ini's hers'f. An' she do seem to git a lot of comfort out o' takin' medicine."—Washington Star.

Poor Man.

Mr. Hanover Squeer—"I see our friend Morris Parks, poor fellow, is obliged to get along with a second-hand typewriter."

Mr. Bleecker Street—"Indeed, what kind?"

Mr. Hanover Squeer—"Widow."—Boston Traveler.

Good morning. Have you read Thos. Slater's offer for men on page 3?

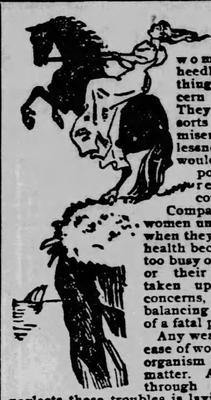
FREE CURE FOR MEN

A MICHIGAN MAN OFFERS TO SEND HIS DISCOVERY FREE.

Claims to Be a Benefactor to Weakened Mankind.

There is always more or less suspicion attached to anything that is offered free, but sometimes a man so overflows with generosity that he cannot rest until his discovery is known to the world, in order that his fellow men may profit by what he has discovered. It is upon this principle that a resident of Kalamazoo, Mich., desires to send free to mankind a prescription which will cure them of any form of nervous debility; relieves them of all the doubt and uncertainty which such men are peculiarly liable to and restores the organs to natural size and vigor. As it costs nothing to try the experiment it would seem that any man suffering with the nervous troubles that usually attack men who never stopped to realize what might be the final result, ought to be deeply interested in a remedy which will restore them to health, strength and vigor, without which they continue to live an existence of untold misery. As the remedy in question was the result of many years' research at to what combination would be peculiarly effective in restoring to men the strength they need, it would seem that all men suffering with any form of nervous weakness ought to write for such a remedy at once. A REQUEST TO H. C. OLDS, BOX 1778 KALAMAZOO, MICH., STATING THAT YOU ARE NOT SENDING FOR THE PRESCRIPTION OUT OF IDLE CURIOSITY, BUT THAT YOU WISH TO MAKE USE OF THE MEDICINE BY GIVING IT A TRIAL, will be answered promptly and without evidence as to where information came from.

The prescription is sent free, and although some may wonder how Mr. Olds can afford to give away his discovery, there is no doubt about the offer being genuine. CUT THIS OUT AND SEND TO MR. OLDS SO THAT HE MAY KNOW HOW YOU CAME TO WRITE HIM.



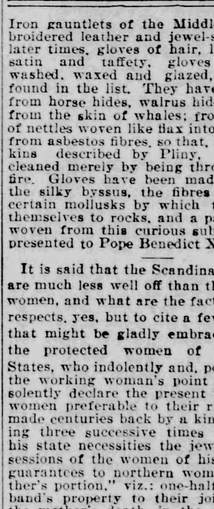
What a wonder it is that some women are so heedless about the things that concern them most. They endure all sorts of pain and misery with carelessness which would never be possible if they realized the consequences.

Comparatively few women understand that when they neglect their health because they are too busy or overworked or their minds are taken up with other concerns, that they are balancing on the edge of a fatal precipice.

Any weakness or disease of woman's special organism is no trifling matter. A woman who through indifference neglects these troubles is laying the foundation for life-long wretchedness.

A modest woman naturally recoils from the mortifying ordeal of examinations and local treatment which doctors insist upon. But there is no necessity for any such repugnant alternative. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription cures these delicate complaints positively and completely. It is a medicine devised for this particular purpose by one of the most eminent of living specialists in woman's diseases.

Dr. Pierce has been for nearly 30 years chief consulting physician of the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y. During this time he has received fully ninety thousand letters from women who have been cured by the "Favorite Prescription." Some of these letters are printed by permission in one chapter of Dr. Pierce's great thousand-page book, "The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser." It contain advice and suggestions for self-treatment which every woman ought to read. More than half a million copies have been sold at $1.50 each. An absolutely free edition in paper covers will be sent for a limited time to anyone sending 21 one-cent stamps to pay the cost of mailing *only*. Address World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y. For a handsome cloth-bound copy send 31 stamps.



The Farmstead.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Retention of Urine in Cow.

C. W. H., Ohio: Your cow may be suffering from urinary calculi. Does she drink water that comes from limestone formation? If so, give her rain water. Stop feeding the bran in her ration for at least four weeks, as it contains more phosphoric acid than any other grain. Kidney trouble results in winter time from the use of dry feed. She should not exhibit pain while being milked. Are you sure the cow was all right after calving? Do not let the cow drink copiously of cold water, as it arrests digestion, and brings on cramp of the fourth stomach. You are advised to give 2 drachms balsam copaiva once a day for a week. Give the cow linseed tea to drink once a day, and put a mustard plaster over the small of her back.

Spasmodic Colic Horse.

A. M., Indiana: Colic results from sudden change in diet, overwork, drink cold water when heated, worms, constipation and other causes. Give 12 ozs. raw linseed oil, and have on hand the following to give when an attack comes on: Chloroform, ¾ oz.; laudanum, ¾ oz.; sulphuric ether, ¾ oz.; raw linseed oil, 8 ozs. Feed no corn for a month. Do not give heavy draughts of cold water. If the bowels become constipated, feed bran mashes until the feces become natural. Watch the feces for worms. If they are found you must treat the horse for these. A remedy is: Calomel, 3 drachms; tartar emetic, 1 drachm; divide into 3 powders, and give one for three successive nights. Twenty-four hours afterward give: Barbadoes aloes, 6 drachms; pulverized ginger, 2 drachms; pulverized gentian root, 1 drachm.

Frosted Comb—Turnips.

J. W. K., Iowa: As soon as a rooster's comb is frosted it should be rubbed with compound tincture of benzoin; or apply to the frozen comb or wattles equal parts of turpentine and sweet oil twice daily. A frozen comb rooster, if he has not suffered bodily harm from having his comb frozen, will do for breeding purposes, but it is better to have a rooster whose comb has not been frozen. Turnips are a good thing for cattle if chopped and fed with bran every few days. There is no great sustaining properties in them, but they are a good change from dry feed in winter time.

Calomel for Chickens.

M. D. K., Ohio: You are advised not to use calomel for diarrhoea. It is given in ½ grain doses, but the editor is of the opinion that there are many better remedies. For bronchitis calomel is given as follows: Calomel, 1 grain; tartar emetic, ½ grain. An excellent remedy for diarrhoea is: Powdered chalk, 5 grains; turkey rhubarb, 5 grains; cayenne pepper, 2 grains. Keep the fowl in a warm place where draughts of air cannot strike it.

Hind Teats Give But Little Milk.

W. H. G., Wisconsin: Your cow is, no doubt troubled with inflammation of the mammary gland. Bathe the parts affected once a day for three or four days with quite warm water. Dry quickly and rub in the following with gentle hand friction: Powdered camphor, ½ oz.; extract belladonna, 2 ozs.; lard, 2 ozs. Give the cow ¾ lb. Epsom salts in 3 pints of warm water, stirring in a teacupful of molasses, and afterward once a day for three days put 1 oz. pulverized saltpetre in her drinking water. The cow should be milked three times a day until the udder is in healthy condition. If you are feeding dry feed, give the cow a feed of cut turnips well sprinkled with bran; but do not feed much bran. A bran mash is good once in a while. Do not give much corn until the

Talmage's Sermon.

OBSERVE SACRED THINGS.

Nebuchadnezzar's Fate Held Up as Warning to Sabbath Breakers.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Dr. Talmage in this sermon uses a weird and strange scene of ancient times to illustrate the behavior of modern people who desecrate sacred things, and for their arrogance get a bad tumble. His subject was: "A King Eating Grass," and the text, Daniel 4:33, "The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar; and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws."

Better shade your eyes lest they be put out with the splendor of Babylon, as some morning you walk out with Nebuchadnezzar on the suspension bridges which hang from the house tops, and he shows you the vastness of his realm. As the sun kindles the domes with glisterings almost insufferable and the great streets thunder up their pomp into the ear of the monarch, and armed towers stand around, adorned with the spoils of conquered empires, Nebuchadnezzar waves his hand above the stupendous scene and exclaims, "Is not this great Babylon that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?" But in an instant all that splendor is gone from his vision, for a voice falls from heaven, saying: "O, King Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is broken. The kingdom is departed from thee; and they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field; they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven years shall pass over thee, until thou know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whosoever he will." One hour from the time that he made the boast he is on the way to the fields, a maniac, and rushing into the forests, he becomes one of the beasts, covered with eagles' feathers for protection from the cold, and his nails growing to birds' claws in order that he might dig the earth for roots and climb the trees for nuts.

You see, there is a great variety in the Scriptural landscape. In several discourses we have looked at mountains of excellence, but now we look down into a great dark chasm of wickedness as we come to speak of Nebuchadnezzar. God in his word sets before us the beauty of self-denial, of sobriety, of devotion, of courage, and then, lest we should not thoroughly understand him, he introduced Daniel and Paul, and Deborah as illustrations of those virtues. God also speaks to us in his word as to the hatefulness of pride, of folly, of impiety, and lest we should not thoroughly understand him, introduced Nebuchadnezzar as the impersonation of these forms of depravity. The former style of character is a lighthouse, showing us a way into a safe harbor, and the latter style of character is a black buoy, swinging on the rocks, to show where vessels wreck themselves. Thanks unto God for both the buoy and the lighthouse! The host of Nebuchadnezzar is thundering at the gates of Jerusalem. The crown of that sacred city is struck into the dust by the hand of Babylonish insolence. The vessels of the temple, which had never been desecrated by profane touch, were ruthlessly seized for sacrilege and transportation. Oh, what a sad hour when those Jews, at the command of the invading army, are obliged to leave the home of their nativity! How their hearts must have been wrung with anguish when, on the day they departed, they heard the trumpets from the top of the temple announcing the hour for morning sacrifice and saw the smoke of the altars ascending around the holy hill of Zion, for well they knew that in a far distant land they would never hear that trumpet call, nor behold the majestic ascent of the sacrifice.

Behold those captives marching away from Jerusalem to Babylon! Worn and weary, they dare not halt, for roundabout are armed men urging them on with hoot, and shout, and blasphemy. Aged men, tottering along on their staves, weeping that they could not lay their bones in the sleeping place of their fathers, and children wondered at the length of the way and sobbed themselves to sleep when the night had fallen. It seemed as if at every step a heart broke. But at a turn of the road Babylon suddenly springs upon the view of the captives, with its gardens and palaces. A shout goes up from the army as they behold their native city, but not one huzza is heard from the captives. These exiles saw no splendor there, for it was not home. The Euphrates did not have the water-gleam of the brook Kedron or the pool of Siloam. The willows of Babylon, on which they hung their untuned harps, were not as graceful as the trees which at the foot of Mount Moriah seemed to weep at the departed glory of Judah, and all the fragrance that descended from the hanging gardens upon that great city was not so sweet as one breath of the acacia and frankincense that the high priest kindled in the sanctuary of Jerusalem.

On a certain night, a little while after these captives had been brought to his city, Nebuchadnezzar is scared with a night vision. A bad man's pillow is apt to be stuffed with deeds and forebodings which keep talking in the night. He will find that the eagles' down in his pillow will stick him like porcupine quills. The ghosts of old transgressions are sure to wander about in the darkness and beckon and hiss. Yet when the morning came he found that the vision had entirely fled from him. Dreams drop no anchors, and therefore are apt to sail away before we can fasten them. Nebuchadnezzar calls all the wise men of the land into his presence, demanding that by their necromancy they explain his dream. They, of course, fail. Then their wrathful king issues an edict with as little sense as mercy, ordering the slaying of all the learned men of the country. But Daniel the prophet comes in with the interpretation just in time to save the wise men and the Jewish captives.

My friends, do you not see that pride and ruin ride in the same saddle? See Nebuchadnezzar on the proudest throne of all the earth, and then see him graze with the sheep and the cattle! Pride is commander, well plumed and caparisoned, but it leads forth a dark and frowning host. The arrows from the Almighty's quiver are apt to strike a man when on the wing. Goliath shakes his great spear in defiance, but the smooth stones from the brook make him stagger and fall like an ox under a butcher's bludgeon. He who is down cannot fall. Vessels scudding under bare poles do not feel the force of the storm, while those with all sails set capsize at the sudden descent of the tempest.

Remember that we can be as proud of our humility as of anything else. Antisthenes walked the streets of Athens with a ragged cloak to demonstrate his humility, but Socrates declared he could see the hypocrisy through the holes in his cloak. We would all see ourselves smaller than we are if we were as philosophic as Severus, the Emperor of Rome, who said at the close of his life, "I have been everything and everything is nothing." And when the urn that was to contain his ashes was, at his command, brought to him he said, "Little urn, thou shalt contain one for whom the world was too little."

Do you not also learn from the misfortune of this king of Babylon what a terrible thing is the loss of reason. There is no calamity that can possibly befall us in this world so great as derangement of intellect; to have the body of man and yet to fall even below the instinct of a brute. In this world of horrible sights, the most horrible is the maniac's laugh. A vessel driven on the rocks, when hundreds go down never to rise and other hundreds drag their mangled and shivering bodies upon the winter's beach is nothing compared to the foundering of intellects full of vast hopes and attainments and capacities. Christ's heart went out toward those who were epileptic, falling into the fire, or maniacs cutting themselves among the tombs. We are accustomed to be more grateful for physical health than for the proper working of our mind. We are apt to take it for granted that the intellect which has served us so well, will always be faithful.

We forget that an engine of such tremendous power, where the wheels have such vastness of circle and such swiftness of motion, and the least impediment might put it out of gear, can only be kept in proper balance by a divine hand. No human hand could engineer the train of immortal faculties. How strange it is that our memory, on whose shoulders all the misfortunes and successes and occurrences of a lifetime are placed, should not oftener break down, and that the scales of judgment, which have been weighing so much and so long, should not lose their adjustment and that fancy, which holds a dangerous wand, should not sometimes maliciously wave it, bringing into the heart forebodings and hallucinations the most appalling! Is it not strange that this mind, which hopes so much in its mighty leaps for the attainment of its objects, should not be dashed to pieces on its disappointments. Though so delicately tuned, this instrument of untold harmony plays on, though fear shakes it and vexations rack it, and sorrow and joy and loss and gain in quick succession beat out of it their dirge or toss from it their anthem. At morning and at night, when in your prayer you rehearse the causes of your thanksgiving, next to the salvation by Jesus Christ, praise the Lord for the preservation of your reason.

See also in this story of Nebuchadnezzar the use that God makes of bad men. The actions of the wicked are used as instruments for the punishment of wickedness in others, or as the illustration of some principle in the divine government. Nebuchadnezzar subserved both purposes. Even so I will go back with you to the history of every reprobate that the world has ever seen, and I will show you how to a great extent his wickedness was limited in its destructive power, and how God glorified himself in the overthrow and disgrace of his enemy. Babylon is full of abomination, and wicked Cyrus destroys it. Persia fills the cup of its iniquity, and vile Alexander puts an end to it. Macedon must be chastised, and bloody Emilius does it. The Bastile is to be destroyed, and corrupt Napoleon accomplishes it. Even so selfish and wicked men are often made to accomplish great and glorious purposes. Joseph's brethren were guilty of superlative perfidy and meanness when they sold him into slavery for about seven dollars, yet how they must have been overwhelmed with the truth that God never forsakes the righteous when they saw he had become the Prime Minister of Egypt! Pharaoh oppresses the Israelites with the most diabolic tyranny; yet stand still and see the salvation of God.

The plagues descend, the locusts, and the hail, and the destroying angel, showing that there is a God who will defend the cause of his people, and finally, after the Israelites have passed through the parted sea, behold, in the wreck of the drowned army, that God's enemies are chaff in a whirlwind! In some financial panic the righteous suffered with the wicked. Houses and stores and shops in a night foundered on the rock of bankruptcy, and healthy credit without warning dropped dead in the street, and money ran up the long ladder of twenty-five per cent., to laugh down upon those who could not climb after it. Dealers with pockets full of securities stood shouting in the deaf ears of banks. Men rushed down the streets with protested notes after them. Those who before found it hard to spend their money, were left without money to spend. Laborers went home for want of work, to see hunger in their chair at the table and upon the hearth. Winter blew his breath of frost through fingers of icicles, and sheriffs with attachments dug among the cinders of fallen storehouses, and whole cities joined in the long funeral procession, marching to the grave of dead fortunes and a fallen commerce. Verily, the righteous suffered with the wicked, but generally the wicked had the worst of it. Splendid estates that had come together through schemes of wickedness were dashed to pieces like a potter's vessel, and God wrote with fire, amid the ruin and destruction of reputations and estates that were thought impregnable, the old-fashioned truth, which centuries ago he wrote in his Bible, "The way of the wicked he turneth upside down."

As the stars of heaven are reflected from the waters of the earth, even so God's great and magnificent purposes are reflected back from the boiling sea of human passion and turmoil. As the voice of a sweet song uttered among the mountains may be uttered back from the cavernous home of wild beast and rocks split and thunder-scarred, so the great harmonies of God's providence are rung back from the darkest caverns of this sin-struck earth. Sennacherib, and Abimelech, and Herod, and Judas, and Nero, and Nebuchadnezzar, though they struggled like beasts unbroken to the load, were put into a yoke, where they were compelled to help draw ahead God's great project of mercy.

Again, let us learn the lesson that men can be guilty of polluting the sacred vessels of the temple and carrying them away to Babylon. The sacred vessels in the temple at Jerusalem were the cups and plates of gold and silver with which the rites and ceremonies were celebrated. The laying of heathen hands upon them and the carrying them off as spoils was an unbounded offense to the Lord of the temple. Yet Nebuchadnezzar committed this very sacrilege. Though that wicked king is gone, the sins he inaugurated walk up and down the earth, cursing it from century to century. The sin of desecrating sacred things is committed by those who on sacramental day take a communion cup, while their conversation and deeds all show that they live down in Babylon. How solemn is the sacrament! It is a time for vows, a time for repentance, a time for faith. Sinai stands near, with its fire-split clouds, and Calvary with its Victim. The Holy Spirit broods over the scene, and the glory of heaven seems to gather in the sanctuary. Who indeed must that man be who will come in from his idols and unrepented follies to take hold of the sacred vessels of the temple. O, thou Nebuchadnezzar! Back with you to Babylon!

Those also desecrate sacred things who use the Sabbath for any other than religious purposes. This holy day was let down from heaven amid the intense secularities of the week to remind us that we are immortal, and to allow us preparation for an endless state of happiness. It is a green spot in the hot desert of this world that gushes with fountains and waves with palm trees. This is the time to shake the dust from the robes of our piety and in the tents of Israel sharpen our swords for future conflict. Heaven, that seems so far off on other days, alights upon the earth, and the song of heavenly choirs and the hosanna of the white-robed seem to mingle with our earthly worship. We hear the wailing infant of Bethlehem, and the hammer-stroke of the carpenter's weary son in Nazareth, and the prayer of Gethsemane, and the bitter cry of Golgotha. Glory be unto the Lord of the Sabbath! With that one day in seven God divides this great sea of business and gayety, so that dry shod we may pass between the worldly business of the past and the worldly business of the future!

But to many the Sabbath comes only as a day for neighborhood visiting, field rambling, hotel lounging, and political caucusing. This glorious Sabbath, which was intended only as a golden chalice from which the thirsty should drink, is this moment being carried down to Babylon. I do not exaggerate the truth, when I say that to tens of thousands there is no distinction between the Sabbath and the week days, except that on the Lord's day, they do not work, while they eat more largely and dissipate more thoroughly. Sabbath-breakers are like hunters who should compel their hounds to take rest while themselves continue on the weary chase, for men on the Sabbath allow their bodies which are merely the animal nature, sufficient repose, while their immortal nature, which should be fed and refreshed, is compelled to chase up and down this world's highway. How shameful to rob God of his day, when he allows men so much lawful acquisition, even of a worldly nature, on the Sabbath; for although men themselves are commanded to rest, the corn and the wheat and the grass grow just as rapidly on the Sabbath as on other days, so that while they sit in the sanctuary they are actually becoming richer in worldly things.

While you are doing nothing your bonds and mortgages are all accumulating interest for your estate just as fast as on other days. Men hired by the month or year are receiving just as much wages while quiet on the Sabbath as they are the hard-working week day. No, I say how unutterably mean it is when God is adding to your worldly estate on the Sabbath as certainly as on other days that any should not be satisfied with that, but attempt to seize secular advantage from the Lord's day. Have you never noticed the curious fact that our worldly occupation frequently seems to be divided into sections of six days each? Every week we have just enough work given us to do in six days. God makes just enough breaks in our continuous occupations for the Sabbath. If you have not before noticed, observe hereafter that when Saturday night comes there is almost always a good stopping place in your business. All things secular and spiritual in providence and revelation seem to say: "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." When the six days of creation had passed God stopped working. Not even a pure flower or a white cloud would he make, because it was the Sabbath, and giving an example to all future times, he rested.

He who breaks the Sabbath not more certainly robs God than robs himself. Inevitably continuous desecration of the sacred day ends either in bankruptcy or destroyed health. A great merchant said: "Had it not been for the Sabbath I have no doubt I should have been a maniac long ago." This remark was made in a company of merchants, and one of them said: "That corresponds with the experience of my friend, a great lumber man, often said: 'The Sabbath is the best day of the week to plan successful voyages.' He has for years been in an insane hospital, and will probably die there."

Those also repeat the sin of Nebuchadnezzar who in any way desecrate the Holy Scriptures. There are men who use the word of God as an instrument of angry controversy. Bigots at heart and zealots, in the advocacy of their religious peculiarities they meet other sects with the fury of a highwayman, thrusting them through and through with what they consider the sword of the spirit. It is a wonder to me that some men were not made with horns to hook with, and hoofs to kick with, and with claws to grab with. What Christ said to rash Peter, when he struck off the ear of Malchus, he says to every controversialist: "Put up again thy sword into its place; for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."

Rev. William Jay met a countryman who said to him, "I was extremely alarmed this morning, sir. It was very foggy, and I was going down to a lonely place and I thought I saw a strange monster. It seemed in motion, but I could not discern its form. I did not like to turn back, but my heart beat, and the more I looked the more I was afraid. But as I approached I saw it was a man and who do you think it was?" "I know not." "Oh, it was my brother John." Then Mr. Jay remarked, "It was early in the morning and very foggy, and how often do we thus mistake our Christian brethren."

Just in proportion as men are wrong will they be boisterous in their religious contentions. The lamb of religion is always gentle, while there is no lion so fierce as the devil. The lion then goes about seeking whom he may devour. Let Gibraltars belch their war flame on the sea, and the Dardanelles darken the Hellespont with the smoke of their batteries, but forever and ever let there be good will among those who profess to be subjects of the gospel of gentleness. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men."

What an embarrassing thing to meet in heaven if we have not settled our controversies on earth. So I give out for all people of all religions to sing John Fawcett's hymn, in short meter, composed in 1772, but just as appropriate for 1897:

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love,
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

From sorrow, toil and pain,
And sin we shall be free,
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.

My Neighbor Told Me

About Hood's Sarsaparilla and advised me to try it—This is the kind of advertising which gives Hood's Sarsaparilla the largest sales in the world. Friend tells friend that Hood's Sarsaparilla cures; that it gives strength, health, vitality and vigor, and whole neighborhoods use it as a family medicine.

HOOD'S PILLS act easily and promptly on the liver and bowels. Cure sick headache.

MRS. CLEVELAND EMBARRASSED.

Her Pastor Made Himself Overzealous After the Service.

Members of the Presbyterian church, of which the Rev. Dr. Sunderland is rector, are greatly exercised over an incident of this morning's service. At the conclusion of the prayers and singing the rector delivered a brief address, closing with the request that "those present who did not intend to commune would leave the church."

This was done, and the communion proceeded with the usual ceremony. When the last one present had partaken of the cup Dr. Sunderland again addressed the congregation. He said: "Probably many present are not aware that Mrs. Cleveland is in their midst for the last time. At least, the last time she will appear in her official position, and I would urge that she remain seated as the congregation rise, in order that they may take advantage of the opportunity to shake hands."

For a moment consternation reigned. The President's wife sat motionless, white as a sheet, uncertain whether to comply or leave the church. Discretion prevailed, however, and, though perceptibly embarrassed, she greeted those who approached her with her customary unaffected sincerity and cordiality. Many, realizing the awkwardness of the situation, hurried out to discuss the subject of appeal, regretful at the turn of affairs and the plight of the lady in question.

The unfortunate part of the affair is that Dr. Sunderland is a warm personal friend of the Clevelands and that he acted from a sincere desire for the pleasure of all parties.—Washington dispatch to the New York Journal.

Crushed Him.

The bachelor who had boarded at the same hotel for twenty years was perturbed when the thoughtless head waiter set the couple on their bridal trip right opposite him at the table.

"There is no marrying in heaven, I am happy to say," he said, to no one in particular.

"Well, I don't care," said the blushing bride. "There is heaven in marriage, anyway. Isn't there, dearie?" she continued, turning toward her accomplice, and the bachelor boarder went downstairs and quarreled with the clerk.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

His Conscience Was Clear.

Broker's Wife—"How happy you look, my dear. What is the cause?"

Broker—"A clear conscience. I have not taken an innocent and confiding man's money for twenty-four hours."

"I am glad to hear it."

"Yes, you see my partner died last night and our office was closed to-day."—New York Weekly.

No Fixed Rule.

"You cawn't get down no fixed rule o' conduct in this life," said old Wiggins the Barrel Man oracularly. "Samson got into trouble 'cause he got his hair cut, and Absalom got into trouble 'cause he didn't."—Tit-Bits.

Hare Soup.

"See here, waiter, I just found a hair in this soup!"

"That's all right, sir; hare and rabbit—just the same, you know."—Philadelphia North American.

And Be Hanged to You.

Oh, fate is ever a-mocking,
And life is ever a botch;
While Dolly was hanging my stocking,
Alack! I was hanging my watch!
—Town Topics.

Your Vitality?

The essence of life is force. Every breath you breathe, every heart beat, every motion of your hand, takes force. The measure of force we call vitality. If this is lacking, there is loss of flesh, lack of resistive power, a tendency to catch disease easily, especially a tendency to Consumption. For low vitality nothing is better than Scott's Emulsion. It supplies force by furnishing the nourishing, strengthening elements of food in an easily digested form; enriches the blood, and builds up the system. When ordinary food is of no avail, Scott's Emulsion will supply the body with all the vital elements of life.

Two sizes, 50 cts. and $1.00. All druggists.

If you will ask for it we will send you a book telling you all about Scott's Emulsion. Free.

SCOTT & BOWNE, New York.

SINGULAR OMISSION.

If McKinley Should Die Before March 4, Who Would Succeed?

Suppose that the successful candidate for the Presidency should die in the interval between the general election and the meetings of the Presidential electors in their several state capitals the second Monday in January, or even after that, but before the results of those meetings should be formally declared in the presence of Congress the second Wednesday of February, who would be the next President of the United States?

There seems to be no doubt that if the successful candidate for the Presidency should die before the 4th of March on which he was to be inaugurated, but after the day on which the votes cast by a residential electors for President and Vice President had been counted, and the results had been announced in presence of Congress, the Vice President would become President. We only say that there seems to be no doubt about this matter, for Congress has made no provision for such a contingency, nor has the constitutional question, which would arise, been judicially answered. The constitution says that the office of President shall devolve on the Vice President in the event of the President's death, resignation or inability to discharge its powers and duties. But, strictly speaking, we could hardly say that there had been a President in existence into whose place the Vice President-elect might lawfully pass on the ensuing 4th of March. There had been in existence a President-elect, but not a President; for the latter's term of office could not begin until his predecessor had gone out of office and he himself had been inaugurated. The formal declaration in Congress of the results of the voting done by Presidential electors does not make the successful candidate a President in presenti, but merely in futuro. We believe, however, that it would be held, should the supposed contingency ever arise, that the President-elect, although a President in no other particular, is a President to the extent of enabling the office to devolve under the constitution upon the Vice President-elect the ensuing 4th of March.

Let us suppose, however, that a candidate should die after the second Monday in January, when the Presidential electors meet at their respective state capitols and give their votes, but before the declaration of the result of those votes had been made in presence of the two houses of Congress assembled in joint session; would a result which death had nullified be accepted and announced in Congress as the will of the Presidential electors and of their constituents, with the consequence that the Vice President-elect would practically become the President-elect? Or would it be deemed expedient for the Congress in session at the time of the calamity to quickly pass a law authorizing the Presidential electors to reassemble on a day specified and again choose a President? The friends of the Vice President might say that such an act was unconstitutional, since it would deprive him of a right of succession already inchoate from the moment the votes of a majority of the Presidential electors had been certified for him for Vice President.

There is also a third form which the contingency in question might take: A successful candidate for the Presidency might die before the second Monday in January, the day on which, under the existing law, the Presidential electors must meet in their respective state capitols and give their votes for President and Vice President. In such a case, would the Presidential electors deem themselves morally bound to choose for President the successful candidate for Vice Presidency? It is probable that they would, though a good deal might be said upon the other side. In recent decades it has seldom happened that the delegates of a party assembled in national convention have nominated for the Vice Presidency a man whom they would have accepted as their candidate for the Presidency. Would not, therefore, the people hold the Presidential electors justified if, in the case supposed, they thought themselves at liberty to resume the power of independent choice given them by the constitution? These are questions which in all most certainly hopefully may never be any practical occasion to ask; but that is no reason why Congress, which has so carefully guarded against the possibility of the death of both the President and Vice President after their inauguration, should not also provide for the contingency here mentioned.

ABOUT THE BABY.

Some of the Nice Things Visitors Are Expected to Say.

The average man is apt to feel a little at a loss when a fond father or mother holds up before him a mite of a red-faced baby. Something must be said, of course, and if possible, something pretty. Well, here is a list of remarks, compiled by a benevolent contributor to an English magazine, any one of which will do in such an emergency, if nothing more original suggests itself:

"Isn't he sweet! He looks just like you!"

"I think he is going to look just like his father!"

"Oh, what dear little fingers! Do let me see his dear little toes!"

"Isn't he large!"

"Isn't he a tiny darling!"

"How bright he seems!"

"Did you ever see such a sweet little mouth!"

"Isn't he just too sweet for anything!"

"The dear little darling! I never saw so young a baby look so intelligent!"

"Do, please, let me hold him just a minute."

The first of the above remarks has the advantage of killing two birds with one stone, so to speak. The last is put forth with some misgivings. Awkward bachelors are advised to think twice before making use of it.—New York Telegram.

—The surest Cough cure is Dr. D. Jayne's Expectorant, and even the money it costs is less than for most other remedies; it takes so little of it.

Aid digestion with Jayne's Painless Sanative Pills.

For Seeley Dinners.

"Yes, sir," said the supervising architect of the new hotel, "that room is 40x60 feet, perfectly lighted and ventilated, and yet so arranged that no living man can get into it unless he has the combination. It's absolutely burglar proof."

"But, Holy Smoke, man! We don't need any such vault as that," protested the proprietor.

"Vault? Vault? Who said anything about vault?" retorted the man of skill. "That's the bachelor supper room."—Chicago Journal.

Old Father Time's Adornments.

"Well," said the Casual Caller, reflectively, "trains and people may be late frequently, but there are some things always on time."

"Name them," replied the snake editor.

"Well, the hour glass and the scythe, for example."—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

A Poor Rule Sometimes.

"My friend," said the large-faced gentleman, "you should not expect to be a millionaire in a minute. You must begin at the bottom."

"I tried that deallin' a hand at poker," said the discouraged young man, "an' that's why I'm on me uppers."—Indianapolis Journal.

She Had Reason To.

"Did you hear that pretty woman just now, Rap? She said she believed in long engagements and short marriages."

"Rather a strange idea."

"Not at all, Rap; she's an actress."—Cincinnati.

A Rare Occurrence.

He had a fit. He did not lie upon the sidewalk and froth at the mouth, but his friends felt inclined to do so.

They were so surprised.

His English clothes really fitted him.—New York Tribune.

True to Life.

"Harry says his life was a barren desert before he saw me."

"Well, he looks as if he lived where he couldn't get water to drink."—Chicago Record.

IN TWO MOODS.

A voice in the stillness of night,
Soft steps ascending the stair,
A new soul born to the world,
A mother's caresses and care.

A cradle swung to and fro,
A carriage out in the hall,
Small gowns and shoes on the floor,
With dolls and trumpet and ball.

Watching for papa to come,
Blocks for the castle and mill,
Wagons and sleds in the yard,
And sand for mountain and hill.

Then paper and pencil and straw,
And stories of birds and of bee,
Songs telling of rain and of gun,
And motions so graceful and free.

A visit to grandmother's home,
Things counted by tens o'er and o'er,
Words sounded and named at a glance,
And pictures and books by the score.

Slates and long pencils to buy,
Bouquets for teachers so dear,
Dinners and lunches at noon,
Talks of promotion next year.

Reports to be signed every month,
And meetings in doors and on lawn,
With songs and with pieces to learn—
Commencement is fast coming on.

Hats and white dresses to buy,
Mottoes conned o'er with great care,
Bunches of spruce and of ferns,
Choruses filling the air.

Then histories and prophesies bold,
Orations and essays to hear,
Diplomas with high-sounding words,
Fond parents all listening with fear.

To college for four years or more,
Degrees and high honors to earn,
The choice of a partner for life,
Professions and business to learn.

Gray hairs now beginning to show,
Life's lessons becoming more real,
Faith coming to rescue the soul,
Joys wider and deeper to feel.

A hush in the hours near the morn,
A gleam from a once distant shore,
A sense of conscious awakening,
A start—and our life's dream is o'er.
C. S. COLER.

Sandusky, O.

THEATRE HAT AND WRAP

Although in the Height of Style It Is Light to Wear and Acceptable in Size.

From a woman's own standpoint a theatre hat should be small, for it must be worn for several hours, while the woman sits with head bent back and neck muscles strained.

Clever little hats with capes to match come for these occasions, and the milliner who does not know her art sufficiently well to make the hat small and light and the cape "smart" is not worthy the name of modiste.

MINK AND BLACK VELVET.

A little mink confection has a crown of gold. These crowns can be bought complete for small cost. Around the back was shirred a box plaiting of pale pink satin and at the front stood three mink tails caught by rhinestone pins.

The cape was black velvet with shoulder trimmings of mink. Around the neck was a plaiting of mink mousseline de soie.

JAPANESE ALLOYS.

Secrets of Metallic Combinations Unknown to Western Artifices.

It is said that a number of Japanese recipes for the making of alloys which have hitherto been kept a close secret, have been revealed by workmen engaged in making them. Among these is the "Shadko," an alloy of copper and from 1 to 10 per cent of gold. This, when placed in a mordant of sulphate of copper, alum and verdigris, assumes the coppered or blue-black hue of sword sheaths and decorative articles. "Guishi-buichi" is a copper alloy with 30 or 50 per cent of silver of the well-known gray color. "Mokume" is a compound of several alloys. About 30 plates or foils of gold, "shadko," copper, silver and the last mentioned alloy are soldered together. In this holes are made, the plate is hammered out and put into the mordant. The finest Japanese brass, "sinchu," is given as consisting of ten parts copper and five of zinc. The bell metal, "karakame," is made out of ten parts of copper, four of tin, one-half of iron and one-half of zinc.

Irreproachable, Then.

He—Weally, I don't wish to boast, but I'm sush my family is quite awistocwatic.

She—Yes; under certain conditions it would be above criticism.

He—Aw! How, may I awsk?

She—Well, if you had been born an orphan and died in infancy, say.

He—Aw!—Brooklyn Life.

A Puzzle.

Fond Wife—"What are you worrying about this evening?"

Husband (a young lawyer)—"An important case I have on hand. My client is charged with murder, and I can't make up my mind whether to try to prove that the deceased was killed by some other man or is still alive."—New York Weekly.

Depend Upon Him.

Mrs. De Form—Now that baby is three weeks old, John, we must send out his cards to let folks know the dear little fellow has arrived.

John (as the baby yells)—Er—ah—my dear, don't you think he'll make the announcement himself?—Philadelphia North American.

SUBSTITUTION

the FRAUD of the day.

See you get Carter's

Ask for Carter's

Insist and demand

Carter's Little Liver Pills

The only perfect

Liver Pill.

Take no other,

Even if

Solicited to do so.

Beware of imitations

of Same Color Wrapper.

RED.

The Sunday School.

The Disciples Dispersed.

LESSON 9, FEBRUARY 28, 1897.

Golden Text: They that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.—Acts 8:4.

(Acts 8:1-17. Memory verses 5-8.)

Read also verses 18-25.

1. And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

2. And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

3. As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women, committed them to prison.

4. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.

5. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

6. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

7. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them; and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

8. And there was great joy in that city.

9. But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one.

10. To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

11. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

12. But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

13. Then Simon himself believed also; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

14. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15. Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost.

16. (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

17. Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Illustrative Applications.

And Saul was consenting unto his death (v. 1). That word "consenting" does not mean a simple allowing; it means, rather, an applauding, a delighting in. And yet not very long afterwards this same Saul, then called Paul, found the superlative delight in the Christ and in the Christians whom now, with a fierce kind of joy, he was persecuting. This is the perpetual marvel and miracle of Christianity—that it can so change men. Nor need we go back to the ancient years for such instances. Take a modern instance. Mr. Peter Harvey was a lifelong friend of Daniel Webster. He wrote a most interesting volume of reminiscences of the great man. He tells how one John Colby married the oldest sister of Mr. Webster. Said Mr. Webster of John Colby: "Finally he went up to Andover, New Hampshire, and bought a farm, and the only recollection I have about him is that he was called the wickedest man in the neighborhood, so far as swearing and impiety went. I used to wonder how my sister could marry so profane a man as John Colby." Years afterwards news comes to Mr. Webster that a wonderful change has passed upon John Colby. Mr. Harvey and Mr. Webster take a journey together to visit John Colby's house. As Mr. Webster enters John Colby's house, he sees open before him a large-print Bible, which he had just been reading. When greetings have been interchanged, the first question Colby asks of Mr. Webster is, "Are you a Christian?" And then, at John Colby's suggestion, the two men kneel and pray together. When the visit is done, this is what Mr. Webster says to Mr. Harvey as they ride: "I should like to know what the enemies of religion would say to John Colby's conversion. There was a man as unlikely, humanly speaking, to become a Christian as any man I ever saw. He was reckless, heedless, impious, never attended church, never experienced the good influence of associating with religious people. And here he has been living on in that reckless way until he has got to be an old man, until a period of life when you naturally would not expect his habits to change. And yet he has been brought into the condition in which we see him to-day—a penitent, trusting, humble believer." Whatever people may say," added Mr. Webster, "nothing can convince me that anything short of the grace of Almighty God could make such a change as I, with my own eyes, have witnessed in the life of John Colby." When they got back to Franklin, New Hampshire, in the evening, they met another lifelong friend of Mr. Webster's, John Taylor, standing at his door. Mr. Webster called out: "Well, John Taylor, miracles happen in these latter as well as in the days of old." "What now, 'Squire?" asked John Taylor. "Why," replied Mr. Webster, John Colby has become a Christian. If that is not a miracle, what is?" Yes, this wonder remains, Christianity still changes Sauls into Pauls. And Mr. Webster's explanation of the regenerating grace of Almighty God is the true explanation. We should never despair of anybody. It is worth while to teach and preach so achieving a gospel.

They therefore that were scattered abroad went about preaching the word (v. 4). There is great value in a specimen. Studying the specimen, I come to know the class to which the specimen belongs. There is a specimen of God's way of working through what we call dark providences. This sudden and scathing persecution was certainly, to outward look, a most dark dealing with this early church. I am sure, amid its ravagings, they could not understand it. I am sure they bewailed: "All our delightful worship and communion broken up; all our success dimmed; all our accumulating influence hindered. It is very strange, even very hard. Why should God so let us be smitten?" But there was the velvet glove over the iron hand of the persecution. It was all dark and hard. The embers of the faith which the persecution scattered started new fires everywhere. What seemed meant for destruction was really for propagation. What looked worst turned out to be best. Let us remember this when to us providences wear jagged looks. It is only because our short vision cannot reach to the benignant ending that providences seem to get such aspects.

"God's purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower."

Besides, we ought to get a hint here that preaching, the heralding the good news, is not a function separated to a peculiar class or order. The apostles stayed in Jerusalem, but what they had preached there the dispersed believers preached everywhere. In your place, and amid your chance, you are to be Christ's herald. Oh for multitudes of Christians now, who, as they go about, will keep on announcing the glad tidings!

And Simon also himself believed; and being baptized (v. 13). It is possible to be a false professor of religion. Simon Magus was. There are stony-ground Christians. Nor could Simon Magus's baptism regenerate him. It is only Jesus Christ who can save—not any rite or so-called sacrament. And faith in Jesus Christ, in order to salvation, must be of the good-ground sort, not of the sort where there is underlying and unbroken rock, over which a surface of the soil of sentiment and feeling is thinly spread.

That they might receive the Holy Ghost; for as yet he was fallen upon none of them (vs. 15, 16). That is, for the impartation of the peculiar supernatural gifts of tongues, healing, etc., which in the early church were imparted by the laying on of the apostles' hands, and of theirs only. The discrimination is important. In regeneration the Holy Spirit had been yielded these believers, else they had not been believers. But the charisms, the special gifts of miracle which the early church had for signs of its divine mission, had not yet been given. The miraculous gifts are no longer yielded, because a thoroughly established Christianity no longer needs them. But the regenerating and sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit is still for all who will believe in Jesus Christ.—Wyland Hoyt, D. D., in S. S. Times.

WOMEN AND BUSINESS.

A prominent English review wants to know why an Englishman always doubts when drawing up his will whether it is safe to leave his wife in the position of executor or trustee; why lawyers proclaim with one voice that, save in exceptional cases, no property is safe which is trusted to the unchecked control of a woman; and why the absence of women from all positions of great financial responsibility is conspicuous.

Englishwomen of the new order rush to the defense of their sex and declare the reason to be that woman has not been trained in the ways of business and finance; that while the boy is brought up in familiarity with bonds and coupons, interest and investments, the girl is reared in what has been considered "seemly feminine ignorance" of such sordid details.

"The shadow of the harem," it is said, still rests on the woman of to-day. "The creature who for generations has had her thinking done for her, who has been hedged about with warping conventions and trained to lean upon the nearest manly shoulder, whose matured intellect was directed upon the unagitating details of housewifery, can hardly be expected suddenly to develop the shrewd penetration, the keen foresight and the cool self-reliance of the energetic promoter."

An American writing on the same subject takes a much more rose-colored view of woman's business ability than the one which, it would appear, prevails in England. He says: "There is no computing how many dollars it would be in the pocket of the average man if he would show just about twice as much deference to his wife's judgment as he does. Many shrewd men understand this fact, and more than one successful man is in the habit of meeting a new business proposition with the remark: 'I'll ask my wife.'

"If some of the superabundant confidence of most men in their own exclusive capacity to manage affairs could be transferred to their wives and mothers there would be fewer business failures and more evenly balanced family burdens."

**A

TOLEDO BLADE.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1897.

Largest and Best Weekly Published, and Largest Circulation!

TOLEDO BLADE CO.....Publishers.
ROBINSON LOCKE.....Editor.

THE BLADE is a weekly newspaper for intelligent American citizens. It aims to cover, each week, all news topics of real interest to all wide-awake and thinking men. Its editorial page is the strongest and most thoughtful of any in the United States. Its special departments are carefully edited, and the whole paper is intended for the homes of the free American people.

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CIRCULATION LAST WEEK: 128,000

TO THOSE WHOSE SUBSCRIPTIONS EXPIRE IN FEBRUARY.

We have recently mailed a special offer by postal card to all whose subscriptions expire in February. Those whose time expires this month, who have not received one of these cards, are requested to write us at once, notifying us of its failure to arrive, and a duplicate will be mailed. It is an offer each will find it to his interest to read and to accept. The Blade will be better than ever this year, and you can not afford to be without it.

CORN AND RAPE.

Let every farmer who reads The Blade turn to the fifth page and read our offers of Kaffir corn, Cuban Giant Ensilage corn, Early Mastodon corn, and Dwarf Essex rape. They are well worth your consideration.

Each variety is fully described in the advertisement, and a cut is given of Kaffir corn, which gives a good idea of its appearance, growing in the field.

It will be noted that we offer these seeds in connection with a year's subscription to the Weekly Blade, and also give an alternative offer to those whose subscriptions will not expire for some months yet, for the seed alone. It is cheaper, however, to take advantage of the offer in combination with a subscription. Your subscription will be extended for one year after the time to which you are now paid, and you will save money in the long run by taking that offer.

Don't fail also to note our offer of garden and flower seeds on the seventh page. Very many have already availed themselves of it, and many more are wise enough to do so.

THE BLADE BICYCLE.

Probably quite a number of readers of The Blade are thinking of purchasing bicycles this spring. If you are one of the number, wait for the announcement of the Blade bicycle. Every one who bought one of them last year was perfectly satisfied with his bargain. The Blade wheel for 1897 will have all the latest improvements, will be of the latest pattern, as a wheel that retails for $85 anywhere in the United States when bought by dealers, but which we will sell at a figure which will enable you to save almost half that amount. Our announcement will be printed in a few weeks. Wait for it, and save money!

THE PRICE OF WHEAT.

The rise of the price of wheat last fall to something like thirty cents a bushel above the level of prices then prevailing, has been maintained since then, until within the past two or three weeks, when it has fallen somewhat. This has caused some apprehension lest the price may fall to the old level. These apprehensions, we think, are not well founded.

The rise in wheat last year was an object lesson to the farmers of the country, showing them that the price of wheat bears no relation to the price of silver, and thus nullifying one of the leading arguments of the free silver propagandists. It proved, to those who needed the proof, that supply and demand are the factors which control prices, and that nothing else has anything to do with their rise or fall.

The prospects for the wheat supply during the coming season are such that any decline in the price is not to be looked for. The Liverpool Corn Trade News, a very high English authority, makes this clear in its issue of January 19, from which we make the following extract:

When a long view of the situation is taken, the result is somewhat startling. For fifteen months the importing countries which have acquired the habit of consuming, one year with another, about 1,000,000 quarters per week of foreign breadstuffs, will have to rely exclusively upon simply two sources of supply, North America and the Black Sea region. The Australian and Argentine crops to be harvested next December will not be available in Europe until March and April, 1898, so that between now and that time there are fifteen months to run, with the likelihood that the next French crop will fall short of the three bountiful yields of 1894, 1895 and 1896, the odds being at least 2 to 1 that a fourth bumper crop will not be reaped in 1897.

On the other hand it is strongly probable that the American winter wheat crop will not fail for a third time, as it has done twice since 1892, for if it did the position would become serious. Nature is always kindly, but a lot is left for man to do. It is true that 'seed time and harvest' have never failed mankind as a whole, but we do not want instances to-day to prove how partial nature is in her distribution of her bounties; in South Africa the rinderpest has decimated the African herds, whereas the plains of Argentina teem with cattle. In the central provinces of India the crops have failed for three seasons in succession, and in Australia the wheat crop has been burned up two years running, whereas in the Balkan peninsula for two years there has been unexampled abundance.

I will not do, therefore, to say that nature is kindly, and to rely upon plenty always, as we heard it preached on the Liverpool Corn Exchange recently. As we have had our years of plenty, we may now be entering upon our years of scarceness. In any event, the present outlook must be described as critical, even by the most unqualified bear.

From this it seems clear that no further decline is probable in the price of wheat, and that higher prices are to rule for the coming harvest. This will be excellent news to the wheat growers of the United States, and its accomplishment will do much to improve conditions in this country. If the farmers are prosperous, the remainder of the people prosper as well.

The New York Times, after making a vicious assault on Gen. Alger's military record, takes it all back in a frank and manly article. But it would have been very much better had the Times made an investigation of the truth of the charges first.

Bryan's book seems to be in a fair way to fall as flat as his lectures. This young man is evidently going to have a great deal of difficulty in keeping himself before the country during the next four years.

We rise to indorse the sentiment expressed by the esteemed Chicago Times Herald, that Mr. Brice is one of the best Senators from New York that Ohio ever has been.

THE CRETAN TROUBLE.

The island of Crete is about 160 miles long, with an average breadth of 20 miles, and 3,300 square miles in area. Its population is about 270,000, of which 200,000 are Greek Christians and the remainder Mohammedans. The island belongs to Turkey.

The Christians have long desired an union with Greece, for they are of Greek blood, not Turkish. Their outbreak, which has taken the form of a revolution, was evidently inspired by the developments of the past few months at Constantinople. The Great Powers have been warning Turkey to introduce needed reforms, especially in Armenia, and threatening to use force, if necessary, to compel action. The Sultan has been stubbornly inactive, relying, as for the past half-century, on the mutual jealousies of the powers. But these proceedings have filled the whole East, especially the Turkish dependencies with Christian populations, with the idea that Turkey is tottering to a fall, and that a little push will precipitate the crash.

The Cretans have declared their independence, and appealed to Greece for aid. The entire population of Greece sympathizes with them, and had King George of Greece not yielded to the popular wish and dispatched the Greek fleet to Crete, his throne would have been overturned by a popular revolution. The same feeling of unrest at Turkish rule is felt in the Christian provinces of European Turkey, and they are ripe for revolt if the Cretan difficulty eventuates in war between Turkey and Greece.

The Greeks seem determined to make war, like the Servians in 1876, and if the Powers let them, can probably drive the Mussulmans out of the island, and can, through their command of the sea, prevent the Turks sending reinforcements. The Turks have neither ships nor sailors fit to fight. But they probably can act powerfully on the Greeks by land, as they did on the Servians. It is very doubtful whether the Greeks could stand against the Turkish troops in the open field. At the same time, it is probable Greece would at once be reinforced by a rising in Macedonia and a contingent from Bulgaria.

The Powers of Western Europe are endeavoring to hold back Greece from actual hostilities, but Russia keeps silent. So it is very possible, should hostilities break out, if the Greeks are getting the worst of it, Russia may intervene as she did in 1877 with such effect, and force a peace on Turkey which would set the island free. This time the popular sympathies of all Europe are with the Greeks, and this increases the difficulties which the diplomats have in controlling the present situation.

An insurrection in Crete is no new thing. For thirty years there has not been a twelve month without a bloody outbreak of some kind. This is owing to the very principle of Turkish government. While the government of any province or district is Turkish, peace cannot reign long between the Mussulman and Christian inhabitants. They cannot live together long peaceably, because every Turkish boy is brought up to believe that if justice were done, his Christian neighbors would have their throats cut; and he accordingly cuts them whenever he gets a good opportunity. This makes efficient government by Mussulmans impossible. They live quietly enough under Christian rule, but a modern state under Muesulman rule is impossible, because it would be considered irreligious by the ruling class. All attempts to pacify Turkish provinces by arrangement are therefore absurd. The only way to achieve lasting peace is to overthrow Turkey.

THE NEW CABINET.

The cabinet of President-elect McKinley is practically completed. But two places are left open, and it would appear that alternative men have been selected for these.

The formal announcement of the two remaining selections apparently waits the final decision of Mr. Hanna. It is pretty clearly understood that the President-elect would like to have that gentleman in the cabinet. Mr. Hanna, however, appears to "have his eyes sot" on a senatorial seat for Ohio.

This ambition, in itself entirely proper and worthy, does not meet with favor on the part of Governor Bushnell, the appointing power. Mr. Hanna appears to be now debating whether to accept the cabinet seat, or to remain in private station and devote himself to an effort to obtain from the coming Ohio state convention a formal resolution, indorsing him as the senatorial candidate of the party.

There is, of course, no hurry about the cabinet. The final cast of characters need not be made until March 4, which is three weeks in the future. At present it looks as though he will not accept the postmaster generalship, the idea being that, should he take that the Republicans of Ohio would consider that he had his reward, and need not be considered in connection with the senatorship. On the other hand, there is no doubt Major McKinley's wish is that he shall accept it. Hence there is nothing to do but to wait until Mr. Hanna decides on his future course.

FACT OR FICTION.

The attention of Congress has been called to alleged indignities offered by Spanish officials to women on board a vessel floating an American flag. It is claimed that these indignities were not resented by the officers of the vessel and that they were of such a nature as to make it necessary for the state department to act at once and in a most emphatic manner.

It is safe to say that no action will be taken until it is proved by a thorough investigation that the three women were so humiliated and mistreated. The evidence so far is furnished by Richard Harding Davis, a correspondent of the New York Journal, and a leading light of the so-called modern journalism. Mr. Davis is also a writer of fiction, and suggested by the Cleveland Plain Dealer it may be well first of all to determine whether Mr. Davis was detailing events as they actually occurred, or whether he drifted off into his old habit of story writing.

If Mr. Davis tells the truth, the United States government has good grounds for doing some very plain talking, but it will not do it on the word of Mr. Davis alone.

It is probable that Secretary of State Olney will accept the professorship of international law at Harvard. A man who makes a record as a cabinet official don't have to go begging for employment when his term is over.

An Indiana legislator has introduced a bill to prohibit the printing of menu cards in French. The race of fools seems to be in no danger of extinction.

THE SOUTHERN VOTE.

Prior to the counting of the electoral vote in Congress Wednesday there were rumors that the proceedings would be disturbed by Congressman Murray, of South Carolina, on the ground that fraud was practiced in that state and that a large per cent. of the Republican voters were disfranchised. After considering the matter Mr. Murray decided that such a course would not be judicious, as it would have no effect save to call attention to the disgraceful state of affairs throughout the Southern states.

Ever since the war the Republican vote in that section has been suppressed. At first it was done by masked men terrorizing the communities and frightening the Republican voters from the polls. Since the days of the Kuklux clan other methods have been used which have proved as successful. Some of the states have adopted an educational qualification which as completely nullifies the constitutional amendment giving suffrage to the colored men as if it had been taken from the organic law of the Republic.

That the colored voters of the South have been, and are, systematically and successfully kept from the polls is proven absolutely by a study of the official figures of the census and the national elections. In the seven extreme Southern states, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas, are grouped more than one-half of the entire colored population of the United States. These states in 1876 cast 989,114 votes. They have gained over 3,000, 000 in population since that time, and yet, in 1896, they cast but 791,011 votes, an actual loss of 198,103 votes. The gain in population in the 20 years in question was 66 per cent, while the loss in votes was 20 per cent. These figures of themselves show that the voters of the South are not exercising the elective privilege which the constitution of the United States grants to them. A gain of 66 per cent in voting strength and a loss of 20 per cent in votes actually cast is of itself sufficient proof to satisfy the most obtuse mind that there is something wrong with the manner in which the elections of the South are conducted.

In South Carolina the population in 1870 was 705,606, and in 1890 1,151,149, a gain of about 400,000. Yet the vote fell off from 182,766 in 1876, to 68,938 in 1896, a decrease of nearly two-thirds. The same facts apply in the other extreme Southern states. In Georgia the population increased nearly 700,000 from 1870 to 1890, yet the vote of 1896 was nearly 20,000 less than in 1876; the figures, are: Population in 1870, 1,184,109; population in 1890, 1,837,535; vote in 1876, 180,534; vote in 1896, 162,744. In Florida the population has more than doubled since 1870, while the vote of 1896 was actually less than that of 1876. The population of Alabama increased 60 per cent from 1870 to 1890, while the vote increased but about 12 per cent. In Mississippi the population increased from 1870 to 1890, 50 per cent, while the vote fell from 164,778 in 1876 to 69,513 in 1896.

In Louisiana the population increased 53 per cent, and the vote actually fell off 31 per cent. In Arkansas the population increased 133 per cent, and the vote only 54 per cent.

Congressman Murray has done a public service in calling attention to the situation in the South. The fruits of the war are turned into ashes and the blacks, in many sections, are no more citizens than they were before the rebellion.

THE PIE COUNTER.

President McKinley's administration, in entering upon its official responsibilities and duties, will have to face a situation which is peculiar. It is, that the number of men seeking office will be larger than at any previous time, while the number of offices at its disposal will be less than for probably a half-century.

The annual report of the civil service commissioner, just issued, gives the total number of positions in the civil service branch of the government as 178,717.

Of these, 87,157 are protected by the civil service rules, and can not be made party spoils.

This leaves but 91,610 at the disposal of the administration; and of these, nearly one-half are fourth-class postmasterships.

The spoils positions are very few, while the number of applicants is greater than ever, due to the increase in the population of the country, and the tremendous campaign waged last year, which developed a very large number of men who did earnest, aggressive work, and who would like to be rewarded.

We have no doubt there will be enormous pressure brought upon President McKinley to undo at least a part of the work done by Cleveland in placing large classes of government employes under the classified civil service. President did this to some extent, notably in the railway postal service, but the result showed that it did not add strength to his administration.

THE KANSAS PLAN.

Something good can come out of Kansas after all. The legislature of that state has an idea on the convict labor problem, which, while it may have its objections, certainly possesses merit. A bill is now under consideration to divide the convicts into classes and to put all to work without bringing them into competition with free labor. One class is to be employed in digging irrigation ditches, another is to raise farm products for various state institutions, a third class will be used in building roads, while the more vicious will be employed within prison walls in breaking stone to be used in building state macadamized roads.

The plan of using convicts in road building has been urged by The Blade for many years, and it now believes has carried into practice it would go far towards solving the convict labor problem. The idea of the Kansas legislature to keep the vicious and more hardened criminals within prison walls, where they can be guarded at less expense, is a good and worthy of emulation. The Kansas plan has merit in it.

The Kentucky and Tennessee delegations in Congress will appeal to Mr. McKinley, as soon as he becomes President, to set aside the order discontinuing the pension agencies at Louisville and Knoxville. Probably the states in which the other discontinued agencies were located will make a similar effort. We fancy, however, that the order will not be rescinded. Nothing can be urged in favor of such a step except that it would furnish a few people with positions at government expense, with no corresponding advantage to anybody else.

The Yankee torpedo boat Vesuvius runs the Charleston blockade easier than the British blockade-runners did back in the sixties.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE.

For years a rapid increase in the iron trade has been the index and avant-courier of a general revival of industry and commerce. So regularly has an iron boom been followed by a boom in trade and manufacturing that it is universally considered to be a sure indicator thereof. On this ground the past week marks the opening of an era of coming good times. There has not been such a boom in the iron and steel trade for years as that of the past few days.

This boom began with the cut in the price of steel rails of about 20 per cent. This was followed by the placing of immense orders by the railways. These orders mean the construction or renewal of several thousand miles of railway during the coming summer; and this, in time, means employment for tens of thousands of men in grading, getting out ties, track laying; it means a boom in bridge building, and in various other lines of industry allied to railroad construction.

Another sign of improvement is given by the Saturday report of the New York associated banks. The volume of loans increasd, while the holdings of coin and legal tenders show a decrease. The banks at most business points are now lending freely, as is shown by the decided falling off of deposits in New York from the banks of other cities. As a result the banks of New York show a very decided decrease in the volume of idle money they hold. On Saturday in that city call loans closed at 1½@2 per cent. Time money was in better demand, the supply of funds being on the same liberal scale which has of late been the noteworthy feature of the market. The rates quoted, low as they are, have in some instances been broken to even lower figures for the long maturities. The quotations are: 2 per cent for 30 days, 2½ for 60 days to four months, 3 for five to six months.

Last week the New York stock market was dull and irregular, generally a shade lower, and activity was restricted largely to industrial shares. In the railway and miscellaneous bond market there was a falling off in the volume of business; still the dealings were well flistributed. In the fore part of the week there were a few sharp advances scored, but towards the close a reaction took place and all of the early gain was lost.

The reasons for this condition are plain. Unfavorable earnings had their part in the lack of support to railway shares. Naturally, also, the talk of anti-railway legislation in the Populist states did its part in causing hesitation. Then, too, the sudden war cloud in Crete had a tendency to make investors cautious, for the first effect of any menace of European war is always a decline in the stock markets of the world.

The trade balance continues very favorable to this country. From Jan. 1 up to Saturday last the net imports of gold from abroad were $82,371, with no indications of a turn of the tide. The course of the importations of merchandise continues to indicate a continuance of the recent balance of trade in favor of this country. From the beginning of the year to Feb. 5, the imports of merchandise amounted to $45,200,000, against $64,400,000 for the same period of 1896, showing a decrease of $19,200,000 within five weeks; in the gain of exports over those of last year there is, however, a very marked decrease.

THE IMMIGRATION BILL.

The House of Representatives has passed the conference report on the immigration bill by a yea and nay vote of 217 to 47. That the Senate will take the same action is undoubted; and the bill will go to the President for his signature.

It has been freely reported that he would veto the bill; but the amendments made in the conference committee may be satisfactory to him. It hardly seems probable that he will interpose his veto to kill a non-partisan bill of so much importance, in defiance of the strong public feeling in its favor, unless there is in it some provision he deems a menace to the well-being of the country; and no such provision can be pointed out, in the judgment of those who have carefully examined it in its present form.

The bill as agreed upon provides for the admission of illiterate wives and children of male immigrants who themselves are eligible to admission. The educational test was changed so as to admit any male immigrant, otherwise qualified, who can read and write the English or some other language. The first agreement compelled the immigrant to read and write in the language of his "native or resident nation." The sections relating to the coming of laborers into the country, with no intent to make it their permanent residence, have been changed to read as follows:

Section 4.—That it shall hereafter be unlawful for any male alien, who has not in good faith made his declaration before the proper court of his intention to become a citizen of the United States, to be employed on any public work of the United States, or to come regularly or habitually into the United States by land or water for the purpose of engaging in any mechanical trade or manual labor for wages or salary, returning from time to time to a foreign country.

Section 5.—That it shall be unlawful for any person, partnership, company or corporation knowingly to employ any alien coming into the United States in violation of the next preceding section of this action; provided, that the provisions of the act shall not apply to the employment of sailors, deck hands, or other employes of vessels, or railroad train hands, such as conductors, engineers, brakemen, firemen or baggagemen, whose duties require them to pass over the frontier to reach the termini of their runs, or to boatmen or guides on the lakes and rivers on the northern border of the United States.

Section 6.—That any violation of the provisions of sections 4 and 5 of this act, by any alien or citizen, shall be deemed a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not exceeding $1,000 or by imprisonment for the term of not exceeding one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court, provided that all persons convicted of a violation of section 4 of this act shall be deported to the country whence they came.

Section 7.—That notwithstanding the provisions of this or any other existing law, the secretary of the treasury may permit aliens to enter this country for the purpose of leasing new arts or industries under such rules and regulations as he may provide.

Section 8.—That this act shall not apply to persons arriving in the United States from any port or place in the Island of Cuba during the continuance of the present disorders there, who have heretofore been inhabitants of that island.

A SPASM OF REFORM.

President Cleveland has signed an order, on recommendation of Secretary Francis, of the Interior department, discontinuing ten of the eighteen pension agencies throughout the United States. The change is made as a matter of economy, and will become effective September next. From that date all pension business will be done from Washington, New York, Boston, San Francisco, Columbus, Chicago, Indianapolis and St. Louis, the last named being a new office, and the saving to the government will be at least $150,000 a year.

On the score of retrenchment nothing can be said against this reform. It is a proper thing to do. But it was quite as necessary three years ago as it is now, and Mr. Cleveland should have explained why he did not cut off this unnecessary expenditure early in his term, instead of waiting until the last month of his administration.

TO POSTMASTERS.

This article is for the especial attention of the 70,000 postmasters of the United States, to whom we owe an apology, but being unable to apologize personally or by letter to all of them, we take this method of doing so. The subject is the fold given The Blade by our new presses, which makes the paper less convenient to handle than the old fold. But this is a mechanical difficulty which cannot, apparently, be overcome.

This is a matter which has been forced upon the leading newspaper publishers of the country by the requirements of fast printing. The fast modern presses now building can not fold smaller than the fold now given The Blade.

Any one who visits The Blade pressroom, and sees the papers coming through faster than the eye can count them, will realize this. The experiment of smaller folding has been attempted, but it can not be done at the speed the latest presses run.

Of course, it will be obvious that it is a physical impossibility for us to have the 128,000 copies per week folded by hand, each week. It could not be done so as to have them mailed in time. It would take too long. At present every one of them is labeled, wrapped and mailed within one day. Hence they reach our readers in all parts of the United States, except on the Pacific coast, by Saturday night. Folded by hand, they would not all be gotten into the mail before that time.

The reason our postmaster friends in the country meet this for the first time is, that The Blade is the only great national weekly in the country, and it has to have presses as fast as those on the great city dailies. Inquiry at the Toledo postoffice develops the fact that most of the great dailies have the same fold, and hundreds of them are handled in the Toledo office every day. The postmaster understands the mechanical difficulties in the way, and makes no objection to handling them.

We are aware there is a postal regulation on this matter; but that regulation was made many years ago, before the advent of the recent fast presses, and before they were needed. The presses, up to the present time, ran slow enough to fold the paper more times. Now the presses cannot do this, running at the speed for which they are built. The regulation is antiquated, and must fall before the march of improvement.

We ask our good friends in the country postoffices to be forbearing in this matter. A number of them have written to express their pleasure over the improvements in The Blade, and making no objection to the slight additional trouble the new fold gives them once a week. We hope all will understand that the matter is one which can not be overcome on the latest presses, and that the great dailies in the cities, as fast as they are compelled to obtain new presses, are obliged to accept the fold which these machines give.

We ask Blade subscribers to show this article to their postmasters, and endeavor to have them understand the matter is compelled by the necessities of the case. The city postoffices, through which large clubs of the great dailies are circulated, understand this, and make no objection.

Hector D. Lane, president of the American Cotton Growers' Protective association, has a plan on foot for the reduction of the cotton acreage. A series of meetings will be held in the cotton states to further concerted action looking to this. It is not a wise thing to do, because it simply promotes cotton-growing in other countries. It may raise prices for one crop, but the next year the American planter will have to contend against increased production by all cotton-growing countries. The true line of effort is in improved methods of culture, so that more cotton will be grown to the acre, at less cost per bale to the planter.

A few days more and this country will have two ex-Presidents.

COMMENT OF THE WEEK.

The second Wednesday of February is the day fixed by statute for the count of the electoral vote by the two houses of Congress, and in compliance with this law the electoral votes were counted on that day, the 10th. There were no returns missing, and there were no surprises in the announcements. It has been supposed that there would be objection made to the counting of certain of the votes, but such objection was not made. Of the total number of votes cast, Messrs. McKinley and Hobart received 271, Mr. Bryan 176, Mr. Sewall 149, and Mr. Watson 27. The spectacle presented by the quiet declaration under legal forms of the change in the personnel of the executive brought about through the election is one of the most striking illustrations of the nature of our democratic system, and the continuance of the practice unimpaired for over a century is a pledge of its maintenance, which grows stronger as the years go on.

Washington advices indicate that several of the tariff schedules have been completed by the Republican members of the ways and means committee. This is the case with the schedules relating to chemicals, agricultural products, wines and spirits and earthenware and glassware. The rates agreed upon are, of course, subject to change until the committee has completed its work. The agricultural schedule is said to be in effect a re-enactment of that in the McKinley law, with comparatively few changes. In the chemical schedule the committeemen have manifested a disposition to retain many of the rates fixed by the Wilson law, and the same is true to an even greater extent as regards the wine and spirit schedule, where the high rates fixed the existing law are to be retained. Other schedules have received attention, but the committee has not made as much progress with them as with the schedules already mentioned. The schedule relating to earthenware and glassware is said to have given the committee a considerable amount of trouble. The tariff on nails is to be, it is said, about one-fourth of the rate under the McKinley law, on the ground that they are manufactured so cheaply in America that the nail makers need little or no protection.

Once again the advocates of the Torrey bankruptcy law are buoyed up with the hope of seeing that measure passed. The senate took up the measure on Wednesday, and the fact that other measures likely to displace the bill in the attention of the senate have been put out of the way, encourages the expectation on the part of some that it has now some chance for enactment. The advocates of the bill should employ all the energy they are possessed of to endeavor to secure the passage of the measure. The chances are that they will require all their resources, for it seems to be one of the most difficult things in the world to bring about the passage of a bankruptcy law, in spite of the fact that it is regarded by business men everywhere as so desirable, and even necessary.

A characteristic circular has been issued by Secretary Morton of the agricultural department in relation to the subject of seed distribution. It appears that the total appropriation for seeds this year was $130,000, with $20,000 additional for testing, inspection and other expenses of distribution. This $130,000 bought 19,053,839 packets of vegetable seeds, 1,012,500 packets of flower seeds, and 292,925 quarts of field seed, such as corn, timothy, clover, etc. Each packet of vegetable seed cost less than six mills, each packet of flower seed less than eight mills, and each quart of field seed only a fraction over four cents. The total weight of the seed purchased is over 1,200,000 pounds. As put up for distribution it would require seventy-five mail cars to contain it. The cost to the postoffice department of handling this amount of seed is estimated at $100,000. Until 1896 the seed purchased by the department for the congressional distribution were bought in bulk and put up at the department in paper packets and bags, and labeled prepared for distribution. Under the plan now in vogue the seed is purchased from contractors in different parts of the country, already put up in packages and labeled ready for mailing. Some of the advantages of Mr. Morton's plan, which he enumerates, are twice as much seed for the money expended; prompt and early delivery of the seed to the people; the distribution of the business among a number of seed dealers in different parts of the country, who compete with each other as to excellence of seed, amount supplied and price, and through the scientific testing of all the seed before distribution, which was never done before.

A reduction of the number of pension agencies from eighteen to nine has just been brought about by an executive order signed by President Cleveland. The order will effect a considerable saving to the government without inconveniencing pensioners. Secretary Francis says that by this reduction of the pension agencies the cost of disbursing pensions can be reduced by at least $150,000 per annum. The change was made possible by an amendment to the law governing the disbursing of pensions, which amendment was approved March 23, 1896. It required that all pensioners should, after that date, be paid by checks remitted by mail. Reports from the pension agencies, in reply to inquiries as to the operation of the new law, have been to the effect that the pensioners are paid much more promptly; that the possibility of error is minimized, and that, upon the whole, it is much more satisfactory to the pensioners than the former law. The agents also advise that the pensioners receive their pensions, when remitted by mail, at their homes, where, being surrounded by family influences, the pensioner is much more likely to make a judicious disposition of his pension money. This executive order will go into effect September 1 next.

Pelagic sealing and its effects upon the herds forms the subject of the annual report to the Secretary of the Treasury of Professor David Starr Jordan, of the commission appointed to investigate the condition of the fur seal. He recommends that the open season for the killing of the females be abolished to keep the Pribiloff herd intact. The opinion is expressed that pelagic sealing has been the sole cause of the continued decline of the fur seal herds; that it is at present the sole obstacle to their restoration and the sole limit to their indefinite increase, and that it is therefore evident that no settlement of the fur seal question, as regards either the American or the Russian islands, can be permanent unless it shall provide for the cessation of the indiscriminate killing of fur seals, both on the feeding grounds and on their migrations. There can be no "open season" for the killing of females, Professor Jordan says, if the herd is to be kept intact. The ultimate end in view, he adds, should be an international arrangement whereby all skins of female fur seals should be seized and destroyed by the customs authorities of civilized nations.

The house committee on invalid pensions has recommended the survivors of "the East Tennessee bridge burners," for a higher rate of pension than that paid to other veterans of the war, owing to the extremely perilous character of their duty, and the sufferings and privations they endured. These men in 1861 enlisted in the Union secret service as bridge burners, understanding that they would be hanged or shot if captured by the enemy. They only consented to undertake the work on condition that the army under Thomas should at once occupy Tennessee after the bridges were burned, in order to protect the men engaged, and this was promised. Bridges were burned, but Thomas did not come, having been recalled, and the burners were deserted. They attempted to escape into Kentucky, but were unsuccessful and disbanded. Some were captured and shot, some escaped to the mountains and others joined the Union army. The few survivors are doubtless well entitled to a high place on the pension roll of honor.

The Tennessee house passed the election bill, approved by the silver caucus, taking all the election machinery of the state out of the hands of the sheriffs, and putting it in the hands of election commissioners in each county, to be appointed by the governor. This gives the Popocrats full swing in election frauds.

Washington Hesing, postmaster and candidate for mayor of Chicago, shocked even the marble busts in Willard hall, that city, the other night, by declaring: "Joliet has more prisoners as the result of millinery bills and dressmakers' accounts and the greed of wives than it has from the effects of saloons."

The winding up of the affairs of the Chinese Six Companies at San Francisco is the close of a remarkable business career extending over a period of forty-five years. The original purpose of the company was to aid in the immigration of Chinamen to this country, but the obligations upon them were so severe, amounting to practical servitude. It is estimated that 500,000 persons were more or less indebted to the company for assistance. The company became enormously wealthy through its operations. It owes its dissolution to the scattering of the Chinese over the land, and their forming independent companies, as well as to the restrictions of the Chinese exclusion act.

Cabled reports from Berlin tell of reports which have just been received by the Prussian minister of the interior and which go to show that the allegation that American pork in Germany had been found to be trichinous was groundless. The allegation has been made to play a great part in the agitation by the Agrarians for restrictions on the import of American meat into Germany. Some time ago the Prussian minister of the interior issued instructions to the heads of the government districts in Prussia to obtain in cases where trichinae had been found in American pork data which would enable the American government to trace the offending shippers and officials. It now appears that only five out of thirty-three districts sent any reports of instances of trichinous American pork, and these reports are not accompanied with the data asked for by the minister of the interior, so that proof of the trichinous character of the pork is not forthcoming in a single instance. Of even these doubtful cases the number is only thirteen. It is thought that the report embodying this information may not reach the American embassy, owing to the favorable nature of its conclusions to American hog product. If it should, however, it will be published by the end of the month.

Men! Do not despair. Head Thos. Slater's offer on page 5.

NECESSARY TO THE GAME.

Mother (attracted by screams)—"What on earth is the matter, Mary?"
Mary—"Oh, mamma, we's playing mother, and I've just put all the children into their folding bed."
—Copyrighted.

KING OSCAR.

The present representative of the Bernadotte family, Oscar of Sweden, is having rather an uncomfortable time with the Norwegian half of his subjects, who are jealous of his too openly shown preference for Sweden.

From a recent description of Christiania, the capital of Norway, it is not surprising that King Oscar should be inclined to make his sojourns there of the briefest, no matter how mistaken he may be in allowing himself to be influenced by his feeling in such a matter. Christiania is said to be "a rude village of log houses principally maintained by the circular-ticket British tripper. The society is made up of barbaric farmers, timber dealers and purveyors of dried cod, with picturesque heads and piggish manners. The city possesses also a school of dyspeptic dramatists, who write nasty plays, and an authentic viking ship, which can be seen on payment of a fee."

Stockholm, on the contrary, has been called the "Venice of the North," and is the prettiest capital in Europe. In summer the wealthy inhabitants retire to their country houses on the fjords and leave the city to the undisputed possession of tourists, chiefly American. But in the winter time Stockholm society is more brilliant in many respects than that of London, Paris or Vienna, and the king is its brightest and central constellation. Even his enemies admit that there is no more polished gentleman in Europe and that there are few more profound scholars than Oscar Bernadotte. As a ruler of a dual kingdom, however, he has made a decided mistake.

The crown prince of Sweden has been trained—as his father, a third son, was not—to the kingship and has the contempt of the specialist for his parents' varied pursuits. He is, however, a gloomy man, "capable, respected and disliked," and has not been more successful than his father in gaining the affection of the Norwegians. Not long ago it was reported in Norway that the crown prince had made some slighting remark about that country across a Swedish dinner table. Immediately his Norwegian revenues were stopped until such time as he should see fit to apologize, deny or explain. This had the effect of putting the young man on his dignity, and his reply was: "Gentlemen, whatever I may have felt inclined to do before you made your proviso, it is quite out of the question that I should make a statement now." The Norwegian exchequer has been the gainer.

COL. JOHN HAY.

How He Got His Start in the World Years Ago.

Ex-Attorney General Williams, of Kansas, lived at Quincy, Ill., in his boyhood. At Warsaw, in the next county on the north, lived John Hay, afterward President Lincoln's private secretary, and now slated by Mr. McKinley, it is said, to succeed Mr. Bayard as the American minister at the court of St. James. Mr. Hay was a country poet in those days—the "Unfettered Bard," as he subscribed himself. He wrote a quality of poetry that made Mr. Williams tired, and his rural airs and manners were simply killing to the practical Quincy boy.

"I'll drive that fellow off the river," Mr. Williams declared one day, and so he did.

Mr. Williams got himself together one dayand wrote the rottenest sort of alleged verses. These he signed "The Unfettered Bard," and caused them to be printed on coarse brown wrapping paper such as grocers need in those days. Then he stole up to Warsaw, and in the dead hour of night he posted the "Unbuttered Bard's" verses all over town.

This took the conceit out of Hay in an hour. A stern resolve came into his face, and the next week he left the town, going to Springfield, where Lincoln took him into his law office, and afterward installed him in the White House as his private secretary.

"Whatever John Hay is or will be," Mr. Williams once said to a reporter for the Star, "I made him. If I had not caused him to see himself as others saw him he would never have left Warsaw, and leaving Warsaw is what gave him his start."—Kansas City Star.

SOME NAMES MENTIONED.

February is the shortest month, and all the country is glad of it, for with March comes in McKinley.—Poughkeepsie Eagle.

Shade of Artemus Ward! Is Mr. Cleveland preparing to enter the lecture field as a humorist after March 4?—Chicago Tribune.

It remains to be seen whether Senator-elect Harris, of Kansas, can surpass the fame of Senator Peffer's whiskers.—Boston Globe.

Lyman J. Gage has come out in a flat and vehement denial of the report that he is a spiritualist. There will be no spooks in the McKinley cabinet.—Boston Herald.

Two illustrious Chicagoans, Phil. Armour and Lyman J. Gage, were born in Madison county, New York, and began life upon the same low level.—Binghamton Republican.

Particular comment is made on Mason, the new Illinois Senator, being somewhat of a joster. There are times when the joker is the best card in the pack.—Philadelphia Times.

Senator Stewart again declares that this country mustn't wait for international bimetallism. Mr. Stewart evidently wants to act as advance agent of chaos.—New York Mail and Express.

The Bradley Martins have invited over 1,500 guests to their mask ball at the Waldorf. The 400 seems to be suffering from an attack of arithmetical dropsy.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

If Lord Salisbury will now file an amdavits that he has no designs on the Monroe doctrine the Anglo-American arbitration treaty will go through with three cheers and a Chautauqua salute.—Philadelphia Press.

FRANCE'S WINE CROP.

France has a good wine crop this year. According to the report just issued it amounts to 1,000,000,000 gallons, nearly a third more than that of the previous year.

Algeria and Corsica will bring up the total a fifth more. The increase is very uniform throughout France. Of out of 86 departments making better showings and reports than the previous year. This is due in part to the systematic renewal of the vineyards, which have practically been replanted since the terrible ravages of the phylloxera, twelve years ago.

The total value of this year's crop is estimated at $20,800,000 at the vineyard, of which $17,500,000 is wine of a superior grade, the rest being ordinary wine intended for home consumption. The simple statement of the figures shows what a mine of wealth to France are the vineyards.

CURRENT EVENTS.

The building trades of Cincinnati and vicinity have 8,000 members in forty-seven unions.

Walnuts are supposed to cure rheumatism and toothache and for this purpose should be carried in the pocket.

A new labor paper—the Union Advocate—was started last week in St. Paul. It is representative of all organized labor.

Instead of a state trades' assembly, as at present, the Ohio trades unionists will organize a state Federation of Labor.

The barbers of Houston, Tex., are organizing, and one of their objects is the abolition of Sunday haircutting and shaving.

The necessity of having experienced mechanics on the board of public works is urged by the Builders' Exchange of Detroit.

In some European countries there is a firm belief among the peasantry that a dream of walnuts will be followed by misfortune.

Those who wish to become horseshoers in Omaha will have to pass an examination if the law before the Nebraska legislature is passed.

In Italy the walnut tree has a bad name. The country people call it the "witches' tree" and are afraid to sleep under its branches.

The war of the Omaha laundries is depreciated by the union laundry workers, who believe a shop cannot "do up" a shirt for 3 cents and pay living wages.

The new headquarters of the American Federation of Labor is in the enemy's country. It is stated that there are 2,000 Knights of Labor in Washington, D. C.

The women trades unionists of Cincinnati have formed a union label league, and the labor men say the agitation of the fair sex is a great help to them.

An approximate membership of 2,000 is claimed by the 28 unions of bicycle workers in the United States, which is considered enormous for a young craft.

The educational and organization meetings inaugurated by the Trade and Labor Assembly of the Twin Cities have been successful, and will be continued ind

Publishers' Column.

WALTHAM AND ELGIN WATCHES.

Some months ago, after supplying our readers several thousand good watches at wholesale prices, we discontinued the offer. For a few weeks we shall offer the following small list much below our former prices, owing to reduction of certain grades by the manufacturer. A couple will be recognized as standard watches of our former list. The others are good grades at reduced prices.

OFFER NO. 8.—BLADE SPECIAL.

Open Face or Hunting Case, Waltham or Elgin Works—Be Sure to Name Your Choice When You Order.

A $200 solid gold watch cannot be bought for $20, but the Weekly Blade offers a watch under the above number which has all the appearances and most of the good qualities of a $200 watch. Time and money have been spent in bringing this particular watch to perfection. The movement (or works) contains 15 jewels, compensation balance, safety pinion, patent regulator, and all improvements. The case is the thinnest filled watch case ever made. Remember, we mean that the watch when closed in the pocket is thin. The lids of the case are the usual thickness and form a perfect protection for the movement. The case is made of a plate of fine composition metal, over which two heavy sheets of 14k. gold are drawn, making a case that is for all purposes as good as gold, and warranted for 20 years. Every part which is subjected to constant wear, such as the ring, thumb piece, joint plugs, hinges, etc., is of solid gold. The works are especially recommended where the most accurate time is required. This is just the watch for doctors, lawyers, clergymen, county committeemen, and all others who wish a really first-class article. As a present it cannot be excelled. It is so thin and convenient in form that it will even make a good and satisfactory ladies' watch, and it is especially recommended to school teachers and other professional women on account of its accuracy, which is equalled by no watch made especially for ladies.

We will send this watch, open face or hunting case, as desired, by registered mail to any of our subscribers for $20.

No. 333.

No. 333 is one of the finest gentlemen's watches we have ever offered. The movements, either Waltham or Elgin, are full jeweled, and are guaranteed perfect timekeepers. The case is of the finest gold-filled, and guaranteed to wear the same as solid gold for 15 years. The price of this watch in open face is $13.50, and in hunting case, $16.50.

Lady's Watches, Waltham or Elgin, $20.00.

No. 15.—The works are manufactured at Waltham or Elgin. They are made of the finest materials, carefully selected. The jewels are all cut and polished in Europe, where secret processes are handed down from generation to generation. The dial is made of the finest porcelain, and the hands of blue tempered steel. The case is solid 14k. United States assay, handsomely engraved. This watch is a stem winder and setter and hunting case. We will send this watch, delivery guaranteed, for $20.

Lady's Watches, Waltham or Elgin, $15.00.

No. 16.—The works of No. 16 are the same as No. 15, but the case is gold filled, 14k., guaranteed to wear just like solid gold for 20 years. The joints, plugs and parts exposed to unusual wear are solid gold. It is hunting case, and is handsomely engraved. Sent by registered mail, delivery guaranteed, for $15.

Gentlemen's Watches.

No. 200.—Solid gold 40 dwt. hunting case with Elgin or Waltham works, 18 size, 14 karat, and guaranteed timekeeper, sent by registered mail to any part of the United States for $33.50.

No. 201.—Gold filled Elgin or Waltham watch, 18 size, open face case, guaranteed for 15 years. The movement or works contain seven jewels. This watch will be sent to any subscriber of The Blade in perfect order, delivery guaranteed, for $10.

Address all orders:

THE BLADE,
Toledo, Ohio.

FAMOUS BATTLE PICTURES.

These pictures are of a high grade, chromo colors, large size (22x28), reproduced from the original oil paintings with wonderful accuracy. We propose to give one picture free, postpaid, by mail, to every person sending us $1 for the Weekly Blade one year. If your time expires soon, you can obtain a picture when you renew. If your time expires some time hence, and you want a picture now, send a dollar, and let us extend your time a year ahead from date of expiration. Or, get us a new subscriber and we will enter the new name for Blade one year, and send the picture to the remitter, if so directed. However, we are confident those who obtain one picture, will want several more, or perhaps all of them. You can obtain them one at a time by sending us new dollar subscribers. Try one of them when you renew.

NOTICE, however, that the above offer is only to those who send us $1 for subscription or renewal after this date.

Here is the list; make your selection from it:

Battle of Gettysburg, Pa.
Battle of Shiloh, Tenn.
Battle of Five Forks, Va.
Battle of Missionary Ridge, Tenn.
Battle of The Wilderness, Va.
Battle of Fort Donelson, Tenn.
Battle of Champion Hill, Miss.
Battle of Antietam, Md.
Battle of Atlanta, Ga.
Battle of Spottsylvania, Va.
Battle of Vicksburg, Miss.
Battle of Chattanooga, Tenn.
Battle of Cold Harbor, Va.
Battle of Resaca, Ga.
Battle of Lookout Mountain, Tenn.
Battle of Ottawa, Fla.
Battle of Fredericksburg, Va.
Battle of Bunker Hill.
Battle of Tippecanoe.
Battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac.
Battle of Pea Ridge, Ark.
Battle of Bull's Run, Va.
Battle of Chancellorsville, Va.
Battle of Big Horn (Custer's Last Charge).
Battle of Chickamauga, Ga.
Storming of Fort Wagner, S. C.
Capture of Fort Fisher, N. C.
Battle of New Orleans, La.
Battle of Cedar Creek, Va.
Capture and death of Sitting Bull.
Battle of Kenesaw Mountain, Ga.
Battle of Stone River, Tenn.
Assault on Fort Sanders, Tenn.
Battle of Franklin, Tenn.
Battle of Nashville, Tenn.
Battle of Corinth, Miss.
Perry's Victory on Lake Erie.
Fort Pillow Massacre, Tenn.
Battle of Wilson's Creek, Mo.
Battle of Williamsburg, Va.
Fall of Petersburg, Va.
Battle of Opequan or Winchester, Va.

We also add a half dozen celebrated foreign battle pictures:

Battle of Gravelotte.
Battle of Mars-La-Tour.
Die Hermann's Schlacht.
Battle near Orleans.
Battle of Fontenoy.

Order by name of battle. Give plainly postoffice address for picture as well as The Blade. Address,

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We offer this cheap edition of the most renowned of all historical works at a price that should place a set in the hands of every Blade reader. We will send a set, postpaid by mail, to every person sending us $1 for the Weekly Blade one year, and asks for for the Weekly Blade one year, and asks for this work as a premium; or, we will mail the five volumes without The Blade, on receipt of 80 cents. Address

THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

NICKEL SILVER TABLE WARE.

It is Better Than Plated Stuff and Saves Much Worry.

We are now enabled to offer to subscribers of The Blade (and to subscribers only, remember,) teaspoons, dessert spoons, tablespoons and forks, made of composition known as nickel silver, which so closely resembles solid silver that an expert might be deceived. It is indestructible, does not tarnish so easily as solid silver from exposure to the air, and it is finished in the same manner as the solid silver goods. The patterns are no thicker than solid silver.

Prices.

They are sent by registered mail, postpaid, at the following prices:

1 dozen teaspoons	$1.25
½ dozen teaspoons	.85
1 dozen tablespoons or forks	2.35
½ dozen tablespoons or forks	1.35
1 dozen dessert spoons or forks	2.10
½ dozen dessert spoons or forks	1.15
1 dozen table knives	2.25
½ dozen table knives	4.25

These are made in only the one pattern. They are sent by express. There can be no variation from these offers. Only subscribers to The Blade can buy at these prices, but they can buy as much as they like.

CHAMBERS' ENCYCLOPAEDIA

And the Weekly Blade One Year for Three Dollars.

The original edition of this sold at $30 per set. A reprint of the Edinburgh and London edition, with additions upon topics of special interest to American readers, and giving American statistics of population down to and including the census of 1890.

This great Encyclopaedia contains thousands upon thousands of articles, embracing all subjects within the limits of human knowledge in its more than 27,000 specially prepared articles, giving pointed, practical, explicit and most interesting and instructive information both for the student and the general reader, free from ambiguous technicalities.

This is a new edition, revised in 1891, reset in clear but fine type. It comprises THIRTY small, compact volumes in paper covers, and the 30 books will weigh about 13 pounds.

READ OUR OFFER!

We will send a full set of this edition of Chambers' Encyclopaedia, comprising 30 volumes, and a copy of the Weekly Blade one year for THREE DOLLARS.

Or, we will send the Encyclopaedia alone for $2.50.

The Encyclopaedia will be sent by mail, postage paid. Address

THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

WHITE, OF KANSAS.

"WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH KANSAS?" GETS AN ANSWER.

The Emporia Gazette Editor's Witty Response at the Ohio Republican League Banquet.

The wittiest speech of the evening at the Ohio Republican League banquet at Zanesville on Feb. 12, was that of Mr. Wm. A. White, editor of the Emporia, Kansas, Gazette, in response to the toast, "What's the Matter With Kansas?" It is here given in full:

There is a song which some of you may have heard, which begins:

O potatoes they grow small, out in Kansas,
And they eat them tops and all, out in Kansas.

There are 43 stanzas to this ballad, and the burden of the song is that Kansas is about the 33d degree in the lodge of the Royal Arch Demon, and that a man, after going through the whole sizzling inferno, is sent to Kansas to get homesick for hades. That song contains several important errors. In the first place we do not eat them tops and all, out in Kansas. We eat them mashed, with chicken gravy, and fried with ham gravy, just as you do here in Ohio. In the second place we do not have to fill our wells with rock to keep them from blowing away; nor do we trim the claws of the Kansas catfish to prevent them from scratching the bark off the trees in dry weather. Neither do we send our abstract to Missouri so that the grasshoppers will not destroy the title

WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE.

to the land. These are popular delusions which hurt Kansas. And of late a new delusion has spread through the country to the effect that the Populists are off the reservation killing plutocrats out of season and contrary to law. These things being prevalent belief, make the street car horses laugh till their sides hurt when they see a man from Kansas.

This is unfair. Kansas is a little queer at times; but so is Indiana and Illinois, for that matter. But just because four or five Kansas Congressmen have the lumpy-jaw you should not infer that we grow tails and run wild with the buffalo. When Mr. Altgeld, of Illinois, began to see things and talk to himself, you gentlemen didn't believe that the citizens of Chicago all walked backwards to keep their trousers from bagging at the knees. Because Ignatius Donnelly scrambled his brains with the wheels in his head, no one ever thought of putting Minnesota in the violent ward. Because Jones, of Arkansaw—hold on! It hasn't got so far yet that a Kansas man has to defend Arkansaw in order to stand up for Kansas. We will have to draw the line somewhere, and Arkansaw is a good place to begin.

I have been invited here to tell you what is the matter with Kansas, and I have come nearly a thousand miles in the middle of winter, to say that there is absolutely nothing the matter with Kansas. There has been something the matter with Kansas—a good deal the matter with Kansas. The devil has been to pay out in Kansas, but he has been paid in 100-cent dollars. And that account seems to be closed. The best way to explain to you what has been the matter with Kansas is to recall a story of Uncle Chester Thomas, who used to be the boss in Topeka politics. The old man was rarely disturbed, but one time, when the reformers gave him the fight of his life in Topeka, he lost his head. That was the campaign in which the old man told his cohorts to "Chur fer 'em, boys, chur fer 'em, but vote agin 'em." It was election day when the old man had been quietly circulating around the polls, distributing rewards of merit, and increasing the per capita, when he suddenly turned and rushed back to his office where his friends were gathered, and panted despairingly: "Boys, boys, for heaven's sake send some one down to the Fourth ward; them idiots there have been for three hours, voting just as they damn please."

That's principally what's the matter with Kansas. We haven't been able until last fall to vote as we pleased—as we damn please, if you prefer the Latin. For six or seven years Kansas has been under the spell of the demagogues. From 1890 to 1894 all parties vied with one another in putting tommyrot into their platforms. You gentlemen here in Ohio have doubtless noticed with consternation what fads, what foolisms, what rank nonsense have passed current for Republicanism at one time or another out in Kansas. When Jerry Simpson came to Congress the first time the Republicans in his district stole his platform bodily, and then absolved the Republican nominee from the duty of abiding by the House caucus. The people couldn't vote as they pleased. They had to choose the less violent of two lunatics. For years a crowd of fellows dominated the Republican party in Kansas, whose motto was "Molasses catches more flies than vinegar." As a result the state platform was more like a fly trap than a declaration of Republican principles. These gentlemen saw that Kansas was built on the installment plan, to be paid for in small monthly payments. They preached a bogus way out of debt, because they believed that it was a sure way into office. They used to tip-toe around the delegates at conventions telling them what was the "smooth thing" to put in the platform. These political economists of the soft soap school would stand proudly on a platform recommending moonshine as a legal tender, endorsing astrology, declaring for blue grass and the barefoot cure, pledging the party to vegetarianism, and whooping it up for the free and unlimited coinage of flap-doodle. Think of what Kansas escaped with these ghost dancers leading the conservative party for half a dozen years. The wonder is not that the state went for Bryan, but that it did not go for the Rev. Irl Hicks and George Francis Train.

When the national Republican party last fall demanded honor and courage from its men this "smooth thing" gang in Kansas organized itself into phalanx that came tumbling head over heels into the Populist party. They left Kansas to vote as she pleased. And when the people were sure that these flim-flam-game fellows were gone, they cast the largest Republican vote ever polled since the days when Kansas was the banner Republican state of the Union. That Kansas increased her Republican vote after the six years' course in hysterics indicates a courage, an intelligence and an integrity among the people that should command your respectful admiration. From horse play to a few thousand votes short of horse sense is a long jump, but Kansas made it.

The people were so glad to get a chance to vote as they pleased, to face an honest issue squarely, to see the slimy old barnacles scraped off the Republican ship, they were so glad to find a party above its politicians, that they piled up a Republican vote which was defeated by a narrow margin only by the triple alliance of greed, anarchy and colic. They can't beat us again, for money, marbles or chalk.

That is why I came so far to tell you that Kansas is all right. Don't worry about the Kansas man. If he happens to be a Populist he is no worse than the Ohio Populist. When you wake up in the silent watches of the night and begin to fret over the moral decay of the 170,000 Kansas men who lined up with Mr. Bryan, turn over and go to sleep resting in the sweet assurance that there were 474,000 men in Ohio who did the same awful thing. When your children tremble at the tales of the terrible atrocities of Jerry Simpson, of Kansas, soothe their childish fears with the honeyed words of wisdom that drip from the inspired lips of J. S. Coxey, of Ohio. Remember that a Pop in any state is just as sweet. Populism is not a Kansas complaint. It is in the blood of men. Sometimes it becomes epidemic. Then, too often, it brings out all the envy in a man, all the covetousness, all the malice. Then it is not a conviction—it is a temperament. It affects its victims nearly all alike. The Kansas Populist is not one whit worse than the men of all ages who have let their envy get the better of their honor, and who have desired to make men equal by dividing some other man's property.

Cain was the first Populist. When he saw that his brother's gift was acceptable to God and that his own gift was not acceptable, Cain did what every Kansas Populist would do, what every Ohio Populist would do, and what the Nebraska Populist would justify in glowing rhetoric. Instead of getting out and hustling for a better offering, Cain got a club and went after his more diligent and successful brother—just what the Populist to-day is doing. Gentlemen, from the tree that grew the club of Cain, has come every plank in the Chicago platform.

In this great fight before the American people for the preservation of American institutions, gentlemen, you may depend on Kansas. She is flesh of your flesh, bone of your bone. The Republican party in our state has been chastened and strengthened for the great work. The last year has taught the Kansas Republicans the greatest lesson of life—the lesson of courage. We have the iron in our blood—iron that makes men strong, who shall make Kansas great, for

"States are not great
Except as men make them;
Men are not great except they do and dare."

And in that great battle whose line is forming, between patriotism and anarchy, Kansas may dedicate to her country's service men worthy to fight beside the patriots of Ohio—Americans as fearless as John Sherman, as dauntless as Foraker, as powerful as Mark Hanna. And one day Kansas may give the world a knight, without fear and without reproach—worthy to stand in the nation's history, beside William McKinley, of Ohio.

NO SAFER REMEDY can be had for Coughs and Colds, or any trouble of the Throat, than "Brown's Bronchial Troches." Price 25 cents. Sold only in boxes.

PATTY-CAKE.

Patty-cake, patty-cake, baker's man!
Love is a jewel, and life is a span;
Summer is here, and the morning is gay,
Let us be babies together to-day.
Sorrow's a myth, and our troubles but seem,
The past is an echo, the future a dream;
Plenty of mornings to worry and plan!
Patty-cake, patty-cake, baker's man.

Patty-cake, patty-cake, baker's man,
Roll it and prick it as fast as we can;
Roses and lilies for baby and me,
Roll it and prick it and mark it with T.
Roses and lilies and daisies that come
Down from the garden that dimples are from—
Let us be babies as long as we can!
Patty-cake, patty-cake, baker's man.
—Albert Bigelow Paine in the Independent.

THE PNEUMATIC TIRE.

That feature of the times, the pneumatic tire, was first thought of way back in 1845, when an Englishman named Thompson took out patents in England and America for an invention which was practically the double-tube tire of to-day. He made experiments in Regent park with a vehicle weighing 1,000 pounds, using first ordinary steel tires and afterwards pneumatic tires, and conclusively proved that with the steel tires a force of 41 pounds was required to draw the vehicle over a hard road, while a force of a little more than 25 pounds sufficed when the pneumatic tires were used.

Thompson did not properly develop his invention, and, like so many of his kind, made no profit from it. But in 1889 a Belfast merchant, whose small son happened to have a very noisy bicycle, was struck with the idea of putting air cushions about the wheels, and this interest in a small boy's plaything was the means of giving to the world the modern pneumatic tire.

Before the Belfast man rediscovered Thompson's tire solid rubber tires were used on bicycles all over the world. So late as 1890 cyclists were almost shocked at the idea of using anything else, and a bicycle publication in June of that year spoke of "the first pneumatic tire in America," and said: "This tire presents a queer or rather ridiculous appearance. It is white in color and entirely surrounds the rim, which is hidden from sight. Its size, 2¼ inches in diameter, gives the appearance of a road roller, and even the most hardened cycler would feel some hesitancy about riding it on a public street.

Did Him a Favor.

Pedestrian (to footpad)—Money or my life, is it? I was wondering how I was going to live through this week. Now I won't have to. Very kind of you. Shoot away.—Boston Transcript.

Fifty Years Ago.

This is the stamp that the letter bore
Which carried the story far and wide,
Of certain cure for the loathsome sore
That bubbled up from the tainted tide
Of the blood below. And 'twas Ayer's name
And his sarsaparilla, that all now, know,
That was just beginning its fight of fame
With its cures of 50 years ago.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla

is the original sarsaparilla. It has behind it a record for cures unequalled by any blood purifying compound. It is the only sarsaparilla honored by a medal at the World's Fair of 1893. Others imitate the remedy; they can't imitate the record:

50 Years of Cures.

LINCOLN'S BIRTHPLACE.

ITS APPEARANCE AT THE PRESENT TIME.

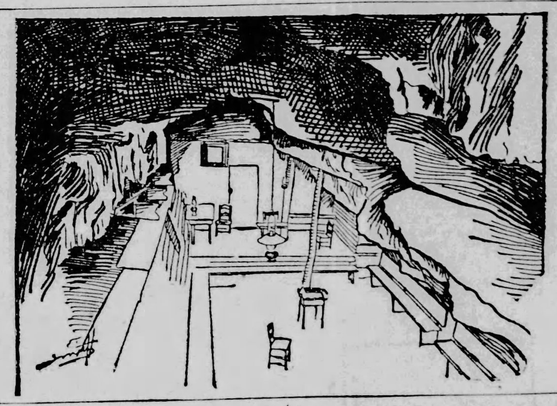
MEET IN A CAVE.

LODGE ROOM OF EAST TENNESSEE ODD FELLOWS.

Enjoy Themselves Fully as Much as Do Their Brothers in Toledo Lodge Rooms.

Special Telegram to The Blade.

Bristol, Tenn., Feb. 16.—One of the strongest and most resourceful lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in the state of Tennessee, outside of the cities, is Gap Creek lodge, No. 72, which has for its lodge room a large cave in



Carter county, four miles from Elizabethton, and eight miles east of Johnson City, East Tennessee. So fascinating is the home of this lodge that several members of the order in nearby towns have transferred their membership to it.

Gap Creek lodge has been holding its meetings in this cave for more than two years, having rented the subterranean chamber from its owner, Dr. Nathaniel Hyder. This lodge has a membership of 75, which includes many of Carter county's most prominent and influential citizens.

This strange lodge room is located in an elevated strip of woodland. The entrance faces the east, and on approach it presents a sombre appearance, which might be considered typical of mysteries that are known only in the hearts of the faithful members of a great secret order. From the entrance, it is twelve feet down an incline stairway to the first chamber—the ante-room. This chamber is 14x18 feet, and has been provided with all the necessary equipment to make it a desirable room in which to prepare candidates for initiation into the order. To the rear of this chamber is an opening, and twelve feet further down, on an angle of 45 degrees, is the lodge room proper. This room is 18x60 feet. The walls are partially perpendicular to a height of eight feet, and proceeding thence on an angle they meet over the center of the chamber like a common housetop.

While viewed through the entrance from without, these chambers present a dark and mysterious appearance, light is nevertheless so reflected from the outer entrance as to penetrate both chambers, so illuminating the lodge room that no artificial light is required by day.

Taken altogether, these underground apartments certainly furnish quaint and striking quarters for a body of men whose deliberations are ever to be a secret to the outside world.

The lodge room is provided with a floor and all the necessary conveniences incident to proper comfort.

THE CITY OF CANEA.

The Capital of Crete, and Scene of Recent Trouble.

Canea, or Khania, since 1841 the capital of Crete, and its principal seaport, is situated on the northern coast of the island and about 25 miles from its western extremity on the isthmus of the Akrotiri Peninsula, which lies between the Bay of Canea and the Bay of Suda. It is on the site of the ancient Cydonia, is the principal commercial town of the island, with a population of about 15,000. It is closely built, irregular and overcrowded, and surrounded by a massive Venetian wall. Of late years a few of the streets have been widened.

The ordinary buildings are of wood, though a few of the more important are of more solid materials. There are some Greek churches, a number of Turkish mosques, a Jewish synagogue, a military hospital in an old Venetian building, and a substantially constructed prison. The fosse is laid out in gardens, public gardens have been constructed outside the walls and artesian wells have been bored by the government. The harbor is 1,200 feet long, formed by an ancient transverse mole, indicated by a lighthouse and protected by a fort. The harbor is shallow, but affords safe anchorage for vessels of 300 tons.

Oil, soap and wax are the principal exports; shipbuilding on a small scale is carried on in the port, and there is considerable manufacture of leather.

The town is the seat of a Greek bishop, suffragan to the metropolitan at Candia, and is also the official residence of the European consuls. In 1856 the town suffered severely from an earthquake.

FROM ZERO TO GERMS.

How doth the little latent germ
Improve his shining hour
To make his Grippe secure and firm,
And let us feel his power!

When down the mercury doth skate,
And freezing is the weather,
The knowing germ doth hibernate
And tuck his legs together.

But when there comes these genial thaws,
Relaxing winter's muscles,
The germ his predatory paws
Doth lay on our corpuscles.
—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Sons and fathers, read Thos. Slater's offer on page 8.

REMARKABLE FEATS.

Displays Not Yet Attempted by European Acrobats.

There is always an abundant supply of stories of the expertness of Hindoo jugglers and acrobats. One who moves about perched upon a single long stick is the latest novelty. This performer is mounted on a bamboo pole about 15 feet high, the top of which is tied to a girdle worn around his waist. A small cushion is fastened a few feet down the pole, which acts as a leg rest. The acrobat hops around a large space in the liveliest way, uttering cheerful shouts and accompanied by the tapping of a curious drum. He also executes a sort of dance and goes through a little pantomime. It is a marvelous feat of equilibrium. To walk on a pair of stilts as high as this would be a performance worthy of exhibition on our variety stage. But to hop around on one is quite another thing.

If the same man can do many other wonderful things. He appears absolutely perfect in the art of balancing. He can balance a very light stick on his nose and a heavy one on his chin, and then throw the heavy one into the air with his head and catch it on the end of the light. When balancing these two sticks, end on end, he will make one revolve in one direction and the other in the other. He puts one hand on a flat circular stone, throws his feet up into the air and balances a stick on each of them. At the same time he revolves rapidly on the pivot formed by his arm and the stone.

Encouraging Him.

Her Father—"Has my daughter encouraged you, sir?"

Suitor—"Yes, she said she was an only child and your estate would approximate a million."—Adams Freeman.

JOHN ROCKEFELLER.

Some Facts About Him and His Wealth.

John D. Rockefeller.

He is America's richest man.

His wealth is more than $200,000,000.

When a boy he had the reputation of being lazy.

His colossal fortune was made in oil—Standard Oil.

He gives away $500,000 in charities every year, it is said.

He can play the violin very well, and has a fondness for pictures.

His income is a trifle more than $20,000 a day—nearly $17 a minute.

He gets less real enjoyment out of life, probably, than most $12-a-week clerks.

He never attends the theatre or opera, but occasionally goes to a concert.

He looks like a preacher. He has sloping shoulders and a melancholy face.

His highest ambition when a youngster was to be a trapeze performer in a circus.

He founded the Chicago University, and has given to that institution about $10,000,000.

He pays $10,000 a year to the person who looks after the distribution of his charities.

He saved money from the time he first began to earn it. In two years he had put away $500.

Then he and M. B. Clark went into the commission business in St. Louis, and in eight years had saved $5,000.

With this capital he started a little oil refinery, out of which grew the Standard Oil Company and his vast wealth.

In a short time the Rockefellers were near unto failure, and were rescued by Henry M. Flagler's father-in-law—M. V. Harkness.

Once safely established, the Rockefellers started out to acquire the plants of their rivals. Some were acquired by purchase, others by—other means.

So successfully was this plan of business campaign carried out that to-day there is scarcely a rival plant—practically all the oil industries are in the control of the Rockefellers.

He has a number of residences—one at No. 4 West Fifty-fourth street, New York city; one in Cleveland, another in Greenwich, Conn.; and a very handsome place near Tarrytown. Connected with this house is a very good skating rink.

He is an iron king as well as an oil king. He practically owns all the Lake Superior mines, as well as the principal deposits in Cuba. During the financial depression a few years ago he bought all the iron mining property in sight—and at a bargain.

His parents were Scotch folks, who settled on a small farm near Moravia, N. Y. They moved to Oswego, and later to Cleveland. John D. Rockefeller married a Cleveland school teacher, Miss Lucy Spellman. They have four children. The two daughters are married.

Just now Mr. Rockefeller is having a deal of trouble with his parson, the Rev. Daniel C. Potter, pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist church.

Some time ago gave to the church $50,000. The Rev. Mr. Potter asserts that Mr. Rockefeller has wrecked the church because his conduct has not been such as to please the Standard Oil magnate. The case is now being tried.—New York World.

Evasive.

She—If you were to find that I had lost all my fortune—every penny of it—would you hesitate to carry out our engagement?

He—I would hesitate at nothing.—Indianapolis Journal.

Professor Josiah Royce, of Harvard, is delivering a course of lectures in New Orleans on "The Social Factors of the Human Intellect."

Hood's Pills

Cure all liver ills, biliousness, headache, indigestion, constipation. They act easily, without pain or gripe. Sold by all druggists. Price 25 cents. The only Pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Anyone with a weak stomach is utterly unfit to enjoy life as nature intended. Dyspepsia, Indigestion and kindred troubles are the forerunners of the breaking down of the entire system, resulting in nervous prostration and organic diseases, which generally prove fatal. It all starts from a weak stomach, sometimes so light that it is hardly noticeable. Sour stomach, distressed feeling after meals, belching of wind, "all gone" feeling, headache, loss of appetite and strength, loss of flesh, nervousness, palpitation, trembling limbs, and, finally, utter collapse. There is one remedy known that will positively cure all forms of Dyspepsia, and that is nature's own remedy DIGESTOS. The nineteenth century has wrought many wonderful things, but none more so than DIGESTOS, the magic Dyspepsia Tablet. It makes red, rich, life-giving blood and builds flesh rapidly. Twenty-five cents by mail. Sample free.

Address, DIGESTOS,
Dept. T. Detroit, Mich.

EARN A BICYCLE
BY HELPING ADVERTISE US.
Easy work. Short time. 600 New and Second-hand Wheels to close out. $5 to $15 each. Write for list.
B. R. Mead & Prentiss, Chicago.

OF ALL THE BOOKS that tell about BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS
At one-half regular prices. My 1897 Catalogue, now ready for your distribution, the most unique and artistic published. Send no Cash.
Miss C. H. Lippincott,
210 Sixth St. S., Minneapolis, Minn.

MONEY MADE EASY
You can make from $2.50 to $10 a day selling our LIGHTNING CHURN, which we guarantee to make butter in two minutes, and our DISH WASHER, which washes, rinses and polishes the dishes in three minutes. We want to establish an agency in your county. Write at once for a catalogue and testimonials from people who are selling our household specialties. The work is adapted to either ladies or gentlemen. Address W. H. BAIRD & CO., Dep't K., Sta. A, Pittsburg, Pa.

MORPHINE AND OPIUM HABIT EASILY CURED
For information and best method of curing above habits FREE, add. The Ohio Chemical Works, Lima, O.

THE OLD-FASHIONED CUTTER.

1—"Boys, did you ever coast down hill in an old-fashioned cutter, with a boy on a sled between the thills to steer the craft? It's great sport.

2—but don't overload it in front.

3—For if you do, it will act like this—

4—and land on top of the heap every time."

A SKATING EPISODE.

He made a vow
As forth he fared
No beauty now
Could be compared
To that which graced
Across his view—
Those cheeks so red!
Those eyes so blue!

But later when
Her path he crossed
He gazed again;
Ah, cruel frost!
He swiftly fled
And sighed anew,
"Those eyes so red!
Those cheeks so blue!"
—Washington Star.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR SUBSCRIBERS

TO SECURE SEED STOCK OF VALUABLE

FARM SEEDS

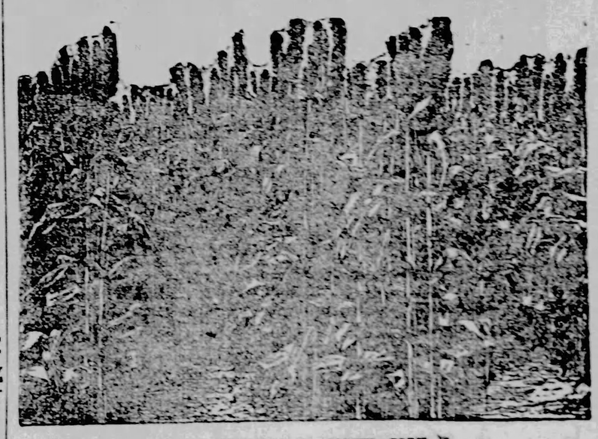


ILLUSTRATION OF KAFFIR CORN.

A PROPOSITION:

All thinking, intelligent farmers of the present time will acknowledge that a change of seed from the proper source is not only a true principle but an absolute necessity in successful farming, and that new, desirable introductions in seeds are something every farmer should give a trial. The Northwest is famous for its farm products, and we have this season obtained from large seed growers in that section a number of different varieties, in order that our subscribers may secure seed stock at the very lowest cost.

KAFFIR CORN.

A valuable fodder plant for all sections. Yields heavily even on poorest soils.

Description.—Kaffir corn will do well in any part of the United States where corn can be grown successfully, and will thrive in dry seasons where feed corn will fail entirely. It is a non-saccharine sorghum and produces an enormous amount of forage and fodder, and can be grown at a less expense than almost any other food for stock.

The heads contain small white seeds which make excellent feed. The stalks are greedily eaten by horses and cattle, and also make splendid food for poultry, fed either in the grain, or ground and cooked.

The foliage and stalks make the finest forage or fodder, so that there is not a particle of waste in the entire plant. For the best results sow in rows about three feet apart, using from three to four pounds of seed to the acre.

The most valuable features of this new forage and fodder plant are its ability to withstand either drought or excessive wet, its vigorous growth, and its adaptability to all parts of this country, with the exception of the extreme North, where only the hardiest and earliest variety will mature.

For $1.10 we will send THE WEEKLY BLADE one year and 2 lbs. of Kaffir Corn, postpaid.

For $1.35 we will send THE WEEKLY BLADE one year and 3 lbs. of Kaffir Corn, postpaid.

For $2.00 we will send THE WEEKLY BLADE one year and 5 lbs. of Kaffir Corn, postpaid.

Or, 2 lbs. alone, postpaid, 25 cents; 3½ lbs. alone, 50 cents, to actual subscribers to the Weekly Blade.

CUBAN GIANT

ENSILAGE CORN.

Unequaled in yield and unsurpassed in quality.

The introducer, a grower of large experience, says: "The grains are pure white and very large, broad and long, and very showy, and of stronger vitality than any variety in cultivation, a very strong point in its favor. The fodder grows on the stalks in great quantities and of the finest flavor. It is the best milk producer of all the field ensilage corns, being almost as sweet and as eagerly eaten as sugar corn. It will out-yield the Red Cob Ensilage corn, and is much more valuable because some 10 or 12 days earlier. An Ohio farmer writes that it is the most perfect ensilage corn he has found in 17 years of experience in farming, and he has tested every known variety that he could obtain.

For $1.20 we will send THE WEEKLY BLADE one year and 2 lbs. of Cuban Giant Ensilage Corn, postpaid. Three pounds of Cuban Giant Ensilage Corn alone, to a subscriber for 65 cents, postpaid.

THE NEW

DWARF ESSEX RAPE.

The best forage plant for the sheep growers.

It is highly recommended by Prof. Shaw, of the Minnesota Experimental Station, and many others who have used it on stock feeding. It has yielded ten tons of green forage per acre, and has twice the feeding value of green clover. Sheep, swine, cattle and poultry eat it readily, and it is especially relished for soiling purposes, on account of its fattening qualities. Rape will do well in almost any soil, but gives best results on corn land.

Prof. Shaw says: "On 24 acres of rape, after winter rye had been removed, 127 sheep and lambs were fattened thereon, and 4 steers fed for 10 days. The lowest average gain on lambs fed on rape alone was seven pounds per month. Some of Dwarf Essex fed at the Iowa Agricultural College gained at the rate of 1 pound per day."

For $1.20 we will send THE WEEKLY BLADE one year and 3 lbs. of Dwarf Essex Rape, postpaid. Three pounds of Dwarf Essex Rape alone to subscribers, for 75 cents, postpaid.

THE FAMOUS FIELD CORN

EARLY MASTODON.

The wonder of the corn world.

Since its introduction more seed of this variety has been sold than any sort ever introduced, and more bushels of it are now used by the seed trade in filling orders than any other variety of field corn. This in itself is a great recommendation for the merit of the Mastodon Corn. The Mammoth Corn has the longest grains and largest ears of any 100-day corn in cultivation, and is unsurpassed in any section of the world. At the celebrated American Agricultural corn contest in Saginaw, Mich., in 1894, the Mastodon corn took first premium for the largest yield of ears per acre, and also for the largest yield of shelled corn and fodder combined. The ears of this corn, with the exception of the extreme North, where only the hardiest and earliest variety will mature, can be grown in every section of the United States.

For $1.10 we will send THE WEEKLY BLADE one year and 2 lbs. of Early Mastodon Corn, postpaid. For $1.35 we will send THE WEEKLY BLADE one year and 3 lbs. of Early Mastodon Corn, postpaid. For $2.00 we will send THE WEEKLY BLADE one year and one bushel of Early Mastodon Corn, or one bushel alone, without The Blade, $1.60. As this will have to be sent by freight, it will be necessary for us to know the name of the station to which you want the corn and make and from it. Pail to your nearest railroad station.

Address all orders:

The Blade,
TOLEDO, OHIO.

IN TWO MOODS.

At 8 p. m.,
A baby grave
Sat cooing on his papa's knee.
"Go tell your ma,"
Said his papa,
"That married life's the thing for me."

At 3 a. m.,
This baby gem
Was toted 'round the hall
By "Shut up your head!"
His papa said—
"This married life's a horrid sell."
—Cecil Leslie, in Cincinnati Times-Star.

Like Toy Farms.

Japan is one vast garden, and as you look over the fields you can imagine they are covered with toy farms where the children are playing with the lovely little things. Every available kinds of vegetables and grains. Everything is on a diminutive scale, and the work is as fine and accurate as that applied to a Chinese vase. At the world exhibitions of Japan's farming think of planting millets on a farm, oats and barley in bunches and then, when it is three or four inches high, transplanting every spear of it in rows about as far apart as you can stretch your fingers. A Japanese farmer weeds his wheat field not as a Connecticut farmer weeds his onion bed, and cultivates his potatoes and barley with as much care as a Yankee would a row of asparagus or mushrooms or flowers.—Exchange.

An Important Correction.

A recent issue of a Greenville (Ky.) paper contained the following item in relation to a letter from Washington: "The letter in question of the account published in your last week's issue relating to my marriage. It was stated that when I was married I had on my boots. This is a mistake. I did not have on my World's Fair sox at that time, but wore a pair of cotton sox that were presented to me by my grandfather when I was a boy. Joseph Leggett, my father, who was a soldier of the war of 1812, had worn them at the great battle of New Orleans and he gave them to me as a relic."

Lonely, Cold and Silent.

"Did you hear of the blunder made by that celebrated arctic explorer?"

"No. What was it?"

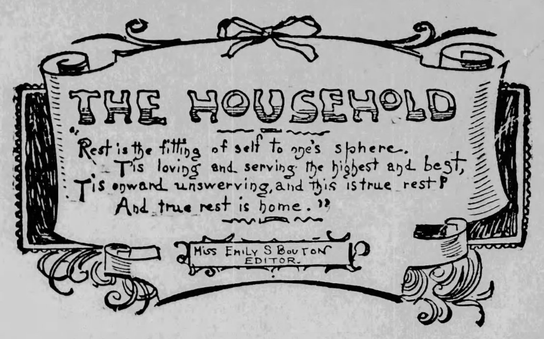
"He ran across Grover Cleveland fishing and thought he had discovered the north pole."—Twentieth Century.

TRAITS OF WASHINGTON.

Paul Leicester Ford, who wrote "The Honorable Peter Stirling," and is now writing the story of an Untried Administration, has collected some information about Washington under the title The True George Washington.

Reading seems to have been an occupation to which the youthful Washington gave to regularly little time throughout his whole life. His library was small and an odd mixture of volumes ranging from works on military science and agriculture to Fielding's novels. A number of half a dozen books were the object of the day which probably belonged to Mrs. Washington.

To his clothing, on the contrary, Washington devoted much thought and attention and was described by a visitor to Philadelph



Written for The Blade.

TO A LITTLE MAID.

DALE DEFOREST.

Be not downcast, my little maid,
Though the laurel crown for which you prayed,
Is not forthcoming.
If, instead, a dusting cap be your share,
Be thankful. It won't bring half the care
And is quite becoming.

Though a sceptre may be denied your hand,
The broomstick has proven a mighty wand
In woman's sphere.
With it, and a smile, you may chase the gloom
As well as the dust, from many a room.
Oh, blessed career!

And e'en though lost to the roll of Fame
Forever, should be your dear home name,
Still gloriously—
It may be written in many a heart,
And in many a life it may sing a part
Victoriously.

A QUESTION ASKED.

AS TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHT TO FREEDOM IN RELIGIOUS MATTERS.

The Successful Spiritual Teacher—Life is a Perpetual Struggle—What It May Mean.

"Has anybody a right to inquire into my religious thought, my spiritual condition?"

Certainly not, any more than to ask you whether your family relations are harmonious. It is entering uninvited into the sanctuary of your inner life, and is an intrusion which you have a right to repel.

Doubtless these things are often done from a good motive, but it is a mistaken zeal, a misplaced energy. Either the question is met with utter indifference, or it arouses a feeling of resentment, which effectually bars the way to any effort to bring the sinner into a religious frame of mind.

Look at the matter in a common sense way. Would you for one moment admit that a stranger, an acquaintance, or even a friend has a right to come to you and investigate your private affairs, your business matters, your household arrangements, your relations with your neighbors? If you have a deep grief which you have hidden away in your heart, and which those nearest and dearest to you even do not venture to speak of, would you accept any claim that might be made by a stranger for dragging it forth into the garish light of day? It does not need a moment's thought to enable you to decide that you would not.

Your own inner life, your soul life, your so-called religious convictions are as much your own, as sacred, as far removed from the rightful interference of others, be they who they may, as the life of the sentiments. He desecrates the name of friend who, unasked, steps into the inner sanctuary of another's thought and endeavors to wrest from him what he has not offered to give. How much greater then the desecration, when a forcible entrance is made into the secret of the individual's relations with the Divine within and without him, with the One Universal Spirit!

Our struggles with our lower natures are our own. The way in which we strive to reach our ideals we have a right to choose without criticism or interference, no matter what that way be named. It is the outcome alone with which others are concerned. And there may be those—I am sure we all know them—who, without label, are living a life which comprehends more of good done to others, than that of many who stand under floating banners.

It is enough that you or I, that ministers or laymen, do the good which cometh to the hands daily to do, speak the word when it needs to be spoken, hold ourselves ready to answer a call for help when it comes, and withal endeavoring to keep the temple of our own lives in moral and spiritual cleanliness, without attempting to force a way into individual experiences to wrest therefrom that which belongs only to their own soul-life, and hence should be held sacred.

Teachers of spiritual things have need of great tact, great wisdom in judging of the rights of individual thinking; great tolerance to enable them to do the best work in the uplifting of humanity. All may not come to their own spiritual inheritance in the same way. The obstacles that lie in the path of one to be overcome, in order to reach the consciousness of at-one-ment with the Divine, differ wholly from those which hinder his neighbor's progress. It matters little therefore what path either one or the other chooses, if it only leads him individually towards his highest ideals; if, by walking therein, he is growing in moral and spiritual grace. And thus his life will be sure to show to those who are not blinded by prejudice, or intolerant of differences.

The spiritual teacher who will wield the widest influence; he who will help the greatest number to seek the higher life, is that one whose watchword is Love for all that lives; whose motto is a Brotherhood Universal; who sees beyond the outer garb of belief or unbelief the motive power of other lives, and whose one object of thought and action is to help in the uplifting of humanity and in its final redemption. His guiding principle may well be comprehended in these lines:

"Therefore perform thou that which thou hast to do at all times unmindful of the event; for the man who doeth that which he hath to do without attachment to the result obtaineth the Supreme.

I know as my life grows older
And mine eyes have clearer sight—
That under each rank wrong somewhere
There lies the root of Right;
That each sorrow has its purpose
By the sorrowing oft unguessed—
But as sure as the Sun brings warning
Whatever is—is best.

"Life isn't worth tne living. It is one constant struggle, and all for what?"

This is the verdict, not of light-hearted youth, but of weary men and women who are listening wholly to the sounds that come to them from the outside world, and not at all to the inner Divine Self which is ever striving to make itself heard above the din of the tom-toms and beating drums of the material world.

Life "is" a struggle, but this struggle has its purpose—to give an opportunity for character-growth, a chance to become stronger, better, purer, not only in this life but for all life to come.

We did not come into these physical bodies for enjoyment alone. We came in order that we might progress, and in so doing help others on along the great evolutionary path to the Divine. Had we nothing to contend with; no obstacles to overcome; no pain to endure, there could be no gain.

We spend too much time in regretting the past; fretting over the present; and worrying about the future. It makes us restless and discontented; closes our eyes to the real joys that lie in the passing day, and makes visible only our failures and our discomforts.

Let the failures go. If you have learned a lesson from their making, they have done their work, and are no longer to be mourned. Emerson puts the truth in this way: "Cease from this antedating of your experience. Sufficient to-day are the duties of to-day. Don't waste life in doubts and fears; spend yourself on the work before you, well assured that the right performance of this hour's duties will be the best preparation for the hours or ages that follow it." And then he adds these significant words: "'Tis the measure of a man—his apprehension of a day," meaning, I think, that the clearness of the understanding, that in the present moment, in the passing day, lie the past, the present, and the future with all their effects and their possibilities, measures the spiritual growth which he has obtained.

We do not give ourselves time to think, and hence our weariness. We do not go away from the cares and fret and worry for a season each day and try to realize the presence both within and without us of the One who "without haste or heat, yet quite easily, wove innumerable worlds: wove old Time and Space to put them in, breathing into the least of them the spirit of life; the power with heart of mirth that looks out to us beautiful, through the grass and flowers, the colored clouds, and the blue that enwraps all things. And into our souls when the little, noisy crowd of personal things has withdrawn awhile, that same power comes, full of a great quietness, taking us up into itself, and making us older than time, greater than boundless worlds."

These are beautiful words, and I leave them with you for meditation and inspiration.

EMILY S. BOUTON.

OUR COZY CORNER.

THE COLD WEATHER MAKES IT PLEASANTER THAN EVER.

Keep Up Good Courage by Talking Matters Over With Love and Sympathy for All.

It was a great pleasure to the editor to find awaiting her in the Cozy Corner this morning one who will be heartily welcomed by all, after her long absence, our Jeanie, who brings her "excuse" in such an interesting shape that we must accept it, though we hope she will not remain away so long another time:

Dear Editor:—Will you kindly allow me to assure those who have expressed a wish to know what has become of me—that I am still alive, very much alive, but also very much of the opinion that my return to the household is of doubtful benefit since its columns are always full and of the best.

But since you wish it, and they do inquire, I can only express my appreciation of such kindness by saying I thank you very much and proceed to give an account of myself.

We left the beautiful pine woods over three years ago, and no matter amid what scenes I may sojourn no other home ever will, or can be just as that one was to me. But in this Western country there are two ways in which the Golden Rule is read. One is: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." The other: "Do unto others as they do unto you—or you will get 'done brown.'" Well, we tried to live up to the first, and we got "done brown." So the ranch, with its smiling fields, its lovely gardens, its roomy farmhouse, postoffice and "general merchandise store" with all the many items that go to make up, and fill up, and passed into other hands, and we come over into Idaho to start again. As of old we pull together, and keep trying. I have taught school, put both pen and needle to work, using every bit of thrift of which I was mistress, working in both house and garden, and we feel we have had reasonable success in that we have been able to live comfortably, own our "bird's nest" of a home, have plenty to eat, to wear and read, and are not in debt a dollar.

Our present "ranch" is 50x100 feet. My garden plot 26x60. Six feet on one side contains some thirty red raspberry bushes, from which I picked over twenty-eight gallons of berries last summer, and I had splendid success in putting up various kinds of fruit. I saw no fiuer at the "Fruit Farm," at Spokane last fall. On the remaining 20x60 we raised about all the vegetables we used during the summer, and, except potatoes, enough to do us all winter, and the size and variety was something wonderful. I cannot have much space for flowers, as on the ranch-land every foot is utilized, but I have bulbs of all sorts, and by hundreds. Mr. J. counted 415 tulips one day last spring. An American ivy climbs all over my bay window outside, and my pretty Scotch ivy vies with a smaller plant of English ivy for possession inside. I brought a bit of all my floral wealth on the ranch to my new home, and not only have they flourished, but so many other lovely things have been added it is now a matter of serious consideration where to find a space unoccupied. But whoever had enough? Yet I've given away bulbs and roots by dozens, for one likes to share with one's friends.

Our winter here, save in first of November, has been very mild, and up to New Year's I picked pansies and sweet violets (the latter came from South Carolina) outdoors. Can find them under snow now (January 22 mercury 46 degrees above and here's a handful of pansies just picked) indoors. I have calla, cactus, begonias, geraniums, B. B. oxalis, Roman and Dutch hyacinths, narcissus and hydrangea all in bloom, and various and divers others with large buds. It is "a little summer-time shut in" and enjoyed.

I wonder how many of the Household members will be present at the "convention of the National-American Suffrage Association" which meets at Des Moines, Ia., on the 26th of January, '97? And will they tell us what is said and done there? How I should like to be present! Our Idaho victory is to be celebrated. We, who have studied and worked to help gain that victory feel well repaid. Of course our husbands voted for it, and the attorneys gave their services free when the matter was carried to the Supreme Court.

But there is much yet to be done. The work has just begun. The laws are still uncharged, and like those of numerous other states are "simply infamous." For instance, no mother has the slightest legal right to her own children. No matter how much a woman may be worth before marriage, no matter how much she may have, receive, or earn in any way, she cannot use one cent except as permitted by her husband. Don't you think there is room for improvement?

We now hope to educate the women so they can use the ballot to advantage to gain still greater victories in the cause of right.

"Californian" excused herself from sitting down to-day, as she was in a hurry to return to her children, but felt that she must ask the opinion of the Cozy Corner circle on one subject:

I have been thinking a great deal about a woman who recently died here in my native state. She was known all over the country as a great worker in all charitable affairs. After her death the newspapers, far and wide, gave extended notices of her life and work, stating that she was president of 19 societies and connected with many others in some active manner.

Her only child, a daughter, was the mother's constant companion and assistant, acting as secretary for her, in all of this great work. This daughter, from an inherited tendency, increased and brought on by over-work, became insane and caused her own death and that of her mother by turning on the gas in the room they occupied at night. At least that was the only way by which the death of the two women could be accounted for.

Physicians had repeatedly warned this mother of the danger to which this constant and arduous work was subjecting her daughter, but she could not see how she could give up any of her charitable work, or how she could dispense with her daughter's services, so they worked on till death came to the relief of the overworked girl and the two ambitious mother.

This incident has brought to my mind this question: How far are we justified in carrying out our own wishes and desires in regard to work for others, in any line? To some women, charity work is a passion, and they indulge in it as a drunkard will indulge in liquor, without regard for the consequences, and they will neglect every other work to attend to this, and think they are doing their duty only, when, in reality, they are but following their own pleasure.

Sometimes is it not a more acceptable sacrifice for such a woman to remain at home attending to her duties there, than it is to go about in all kinds of weather to attend to this, that or the other charity in which she delights?

The woman of whom I especially write to-day, had no family excepting this one daughter, who needed her loving home care, it is true, but what do you think of the devotion to others that could make a mother sacrifice her only daughter in this manner?

I know it is proper to speak no ill of the dead, and I am not intending to do so. I only wish to hear the opinions of the sensible and thoughtful women who meet in the Cozy Corner on the subject of intemperance in charitable work.

Mrs. C. A. H., who is well known in local circles for her earnest and efficient work in the W. R. C., has a protest to make:

Seeing that extended notice is being given of Hattie K. Miller acting as motorman in Santa Barbara, Cal., thereby "earning her living," I want to protest against this statement. Having been a neighbor of Miss Miller's for the past twenty years, here are the facts:

Miss Miller was born and always lived in Berea, O., until less than a year ago. Her father built, and owns, the Santa Barbara street car line. Her parents are people of wealth, and Miss Miller has always had everything desired of the comforts and luxuries of life. I think she is taking the place of some man who needs the work to support himself and family. She is not "earning her living;" is simply gratifying a whim. I believe in women doing anything that may be given them as a means of support when circumstances demand that they must enter the field of labor, and that they should receive the same pay as a man for the same work, but I do not believe in a woman in Miss Miller's position taking the place of a man who has the right to the labor. It is simply robbery.

The woman who is taking the place of her husband, from dire necessity and throwing a heavy switch for a railroad, is "earning her living." What do the Cozy Corners think of this question?

The above reminds the editor of an item that went the rounds of the papers a few years ago extolling the "courage" of a woman who skated twenty miles in one day "on a wager." She was called a "plucky little heroine," a "brave woman" and many similar names, while some papers made the briefest mention of a woman who walked ten miles to town and back again in that same day to obtain food and medicine for her sick and hungry family. Comment is quite unnecessary.

Mrs. J. C. B. writes that, being encouraged by seeing the answers that have been sent to the sufferer from chilblains, she ventures to ask if any one can tell her of a cure for bunions.

Aunt Lida asks for directions for knitting or crocheting a pretty tidy. She recommends the use of Harlem oil (to be obtained at any drug store) for weak eyes.

Jessie and Jennie need not fear to read the books "Stephen" and "The Wrestler of Phillippi." They are stories founded on Bible facts, but there is nothing irreligious in them. If your "Sunday school teacher" told you they were "unpious" books, I do not know where she found her reasons for such an opinion. You had better ask your mother to read the books, and then accept her opinion.

BLADE FANCY WORK CLUB

Is Indebted to Marie for Another Pleasant Instructive Lesson.

Dale De Forest dropped in this morning with a pleasant word and a practical suggestion that will be utilized shortly in this column.

A young lady from Plainwell, Mich., was present to inquire if The Blade published a magazine devoted entirely to fancy work.

It does not, though from present indications of growth in this club, one will be needed eventually.

Mrs. Conrad, our veteran charter member, favored the editor with a delightful little chat. She is the widow of one of the pioneer missionaries of the West, and while somewhat crippled by age, and a fall received a year or so ago, is still able to busy herself with fancy work.

A box of samples of her dainty handiwork was received by the editor before Christmas, one of the articles being a puzzle purse, that proved to be a puzzle indeed, until that wiseacre Miss Prudence came over from the M. G. R.'s and solved the mystery.

The fancy work editor hopes most sincerely that the club will not lose Mrs. Conrad from its membership in the spring, as she hints.

After the social half hour Marie announced as her first subject for the day's programme a

Corner Cabinet.

A cabinet of this sort is convenient to hang in the corner of a bed room to be used to contain medicines or toilet articles.

It may be made plain and painted or

oiled, but the wood carver could add to its beauty by carving the three panels.

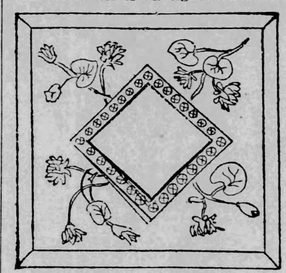
The middle panel is hinged and opens like a door. The rail around the back is a pleasing addition.

She next described a

Hat Rack.

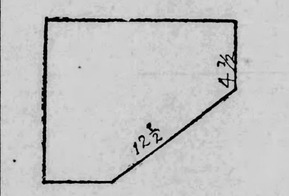
This rack is especially adapted to a small hall where there is no floor room for the usual style of rack, as it is made to hang against the wall.

In the center is an eight-inch beveled



mirror, set diamondwise in a frame 2½ inches wide, carved with a ¼ inch raised band on each side, and some simple conventional flower or scroll pattern.

The body of the rack is of four pieces, properly fitted together, it being 4½ inches on the shortest edge and about



12½ inches on the side joining the small frame. Water lilies and leaves carved in bold relief are pretty on these.

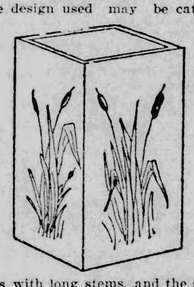
Around the whole place a plain, rounded molding, 1½ inches wide, and furnish the rack with half a dozen large bronzed wardrobe hooks.

As hats and coats naturally suggest umbrellas (in these days of sleet and snow) her next remarks concerned an

Umbrella Rack.

This rack requires four panels of wood, each 8x20 inches in size.

The design used may be cat-tails or



leaves with long stems, and the shape of the rack may be varied by using three or five panels instead of four.

The tin for the bottom can be made to order and japanned by any tinner.

Rose Madder will entertain the club next week.

COOK'S DEPARTMENT.

"The Proof of the Pudding Lies Wholly in the Eating."

Mary Ellen (not Lease) writes to the cook: I enjoyed your dish of hash last week for several reasons. Like the late Artemus Ward, I am generally "certain what I am eating when I have hash," and I cannot say as much for some of the dishes that are placed upon the table of my boarding house.

But, dear Cook, one cannot altogether live on "hash." We like a change and I wish for the sake of some who are more fortunate than I, and live in a home—not in a boarding house—that you would suggest something good for dinner, and something more "filling" for the price" than fruit and whipped cream, and less expensive and more familiar to the "common people" than turbots, cream soups, etc., just a common bill of fare for a working man's family."

I think that Mary Ellen, like many others, judges the menus she reads by ear, instead of by experience. They sound, when read, as if they were expensive and difficult to prepare, but this is not always the case, and there is no reason why a "workingman's family" should not have nice, wholesome food prepared in an inviting manner, as well as to go on using the same recipes their ancestors have used time out of mind, when the cost is no greater.

I had the pleasure of dining with a working man's family recently, and this was our menu: Salmon turbot, mashed potatoes, canned corn, pickles, bread and butter, pumpkin pie and tea. As I was an entirely unexpected guest no extra preparations had been made, this was the family dinner, and a very excellent one it was, and this was the expense: One can salmon, 18 cents; 1 quart of milk, extra, 6 cents; 1 can pumpkin, 10 cents; 1 can corn, 15 cents. The potatoes, bread and butter, sugar, tea, etc., were used from the supply in the house and I cannot estimate their cost; the pumpkin made three pies, so but one third of its cost, and that of the milk, sugar, spices, etc., used with it must be counted for this dinner.

Of the can of corn, enough was left over for corn fritters the next day, so the whole cost of the dinner was very small, the expenditure being 49 cents. Allowing 50 cents for the other things used in preparing this dinner (and that is a liberal allowance) it would bring the cost inside of $1 for five persons. Cheaper meals than this, and good ones, too, can be had, but I mention this because it was a recent experience and was so very nice.

The only thing in this bill of fare that may not be familiar to every housekeeper was the

Salmon Turbot.

Free one can of salmon from skin and bones, pour off the oil and break the fish in small pieces. Make a white sauce by rubbing smooth 1 tablespoonful of butter and 1 tablespoonful of flour, and stirring it into 1 pint of boiling milk. Stir till it is thick and smooth, and season with salt and pepper. In a buttered baking pan (or in individual tins) place a layer of bread or cracker crumbs, a layer of fish and a layer of sauce, until the dish is filled, having the last layer of crumbs. Bake in a moderate oven till the crumbs are well browned and serve hot.

Corn Fritters.

Make a batter of 1 egg, 1 cupful of milk, 1 cupful of flour, a little salt and 1 teaspoonful of baking powder. Stir into this 1 pint of canned corn, chopped very fine. Fry in hot fat like doughnuts.

ALL THE DAY LONG.

What Comes to Waiting Ones at Morning, Noon and Night.

MORNING.

The first we know the moon's bright dawn is shaking us awake, and saying: "Come, ye of the good resolutions, arise, and walk with me!"

We look at the clock by our bed—it is five. None too early. We arise. Ugh, how cold! But we know what we can do. As soon as the fires are built (for although ladies should not build fires as a rule, our brethren work late in the stores, we will enjoy the morning alone, and let them rest). We know a place on the northwest porch where we can get warm, while the fires are growing friendly.

Here we are! Isn't this glorious? What a weird, frosty world! Not all the talent in Christendom could etch this silver pattern. The moon is loth to retire. She is still casting an eye over the old convent yonder on the hill. And the stars are dancing on tiptoe with their eyes brighter than diamonds. O, far brighter!

Now, how sweet and crisp the breath of morning comes. Let us swing our arms and inhale miles and miles of it. The best time in the world for calisthenics. And aren't we warm and exhilerated! Breakfast is ready, and over. No matter what it was. You may imagine, if you please, coffee, after your own sweet will. Apples baked with sugar in the middle, gems, and perhaps a plate of brown crusted fried pork—unromantic dish.

We must "potter" over the dishes a little, after this meal, but still they are done, and every room tidied; our hair silk-smooth and a clean frock on and the morning post just come. Good! Now if we would write, or study, or practice the Traumeri—there is no time like the morning. Ask any one who has tried it if there is. Then you are strongest, and your brain fresh and vigorous, steps out and says: "I know a lot of things; use me now before I forget."

Now to our desk. No need to bite our pencil and knit our brow—the morning furnishes topics enough. We said our devotions in the presence of the wide, white world. Then answered back the stars: "There is that letter you should write, asking forgiveness of one you have offended." You do not mean to? They will scoff at it? No matter. That Book does not mention that at all. It says "be made reconciled." The letter is written, and, as you fold and seal it, a bird comes and sings under your window. Perhaps he is only answering the bird singing in your heart. The birds know!

The stars are not done with you yet. They say: There are the troublesome songs you promised to "write off," so long ago. There are those books of which to acknowledge the receipt. There is the letter to be written to the least of your correspondents. It has been waiting a long time. Obtrusive things! Can't they wait? No; do them now, in the vigor of the morning—they need your best thoughts.

When they are all complete, and lie in glossy compactness, ready for the mail, it is time to run down and get dinner, but never mind. The poem you saw in the stars and the frost this morning—the sketch of the moon and the old convent will come to you again at some odd time before the day is done. They know, and can wait! JENNIE HARRIS.

THE MERRY-GO-ROUNDS.

THE BETTER WAY.

We scorn to wait for the thing worth having;
We want high noon at the day's dim dawn;
We find no pleasure in toiling and saving
As our forefathers did in the good times gone.

We force our roses beofre their season
To bloom and blossom that we may wear;
And then we wonder and ask the reason
Why perfect buds are so few and rare.

We crave the gain, but despise the getting;
We want wealth, not as reward, but dower;
And the strength that is wasted in useless fretting
Would fell a forest or build a tower.

To covet the prize, yet to shrink from the winning;
To thirst for glory, yet fear the fight—
Why, what can it lead to at last but sinning,
To mental languor and moral blight?

Better the old, slow way of striving,
And counting small gains when the year is done,
Than to use our forces all in contriving,
And to grasp for pleasures we have not won.
—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

Some time ago Miss Prudence asked if her girls and boys had ever found any especial meaning in the form of the M. G. R. badge, and to-day she has received her first answer from Lenore, one of the teachers of our circle. She sends a very good idea of its meaning, but as it will probably suggest many different thoughts to different wearers, we hope to hear from all on the subject:

I have been sick most all of the time since I last wrote, but am able to teach again now.

My idea of the design of our badge is this: The form is a shield, as the wearers are soldiers in the battle of life; the circle on its face represents our M. G. R. circle; the four divisions within are the four sections of our country; both the former and the latter being held in place by a Toledo Blade.

I think the idea of a Teachers' Club a good one, and hope to become a member. Thank you, Pansy, for the circulars you sent me. I, too, think a compulsory education law would be beneficial; will give reasons later.

Phrenologist, I think two persons can live agreeably together without being members of the same church, just so they are Christians; at least, I know a couple who do—one is a Baptist, the other a Methodist.

Lenore asks if Miss Prudence will not take her girls and boys with her on her next "tower." She would enjoy their society very much, but fears that she might have difficulty in obtaining "private entertainment" for so many.

Britomarte writes:

I am wearing my new badge. It is a birthday present from mother, for I am just sixteen. I know that I have not lived up to my motto, but with my badge to remind me of it, I am sure that I will do better this year.

The wearing of the badge certainly will be a help, as it will be a constant reminder of our motto, and most of the failures to live up to it, are caused by forgetfulness.

Lectern, Kan.:—Some time has elapsed since I have heard anything from Kansas M. G. R's. A new year has been ushered in and one month almost gone. Where are you? Has the cold weather cast a gloom over your fair countenances? Come, let us place our shoulder to the wheel and help turn the Merry-Go-Round.

I think Pussy's idea on a compulsory education is correct. Although I think every person should be compelled to attend school until he or she has arrived at the age of sixteen, then allow them to use their own judgment.

Lectern asks, in a private letter to Miss Prudence, if we are to discuss questions during this year, and if he may suggest one. To both inquiries I answer yes. There are now two or three questions before the circle for discussion, and we shall be glad of a new one for next month.

The greatest trouble with these discussions arise from the dilatoriness of the members in sending their views. Some will wait to hear from others, and the letters come in from three to four weeks late. By that time the readers are tired of that subject. Write promptly, and we can make the discussion of any subject more interesting.

Now we will welcome a bit of Nebraska Sunshine, hoping to have more of it some time:

Dear M. G. R. Friends:—Here is a new girl from Nebraska, named Sunshine. If I may have a place in your Corner, I will come again and tell you more about myself.

This Nebraska girl is "Sunshine" for her father, four brothers and a sister, doing her best to fill the place of the dear mother who has been "called home."

Nile, after a long absence, returns prepared to receive our congratulations on having "proven up" her claim to a section of Kansas land, and thinks that now she will "have time to play," and write nice letters to the M. G. R., beginning with this:

Phrenologist, how can you make such a sweeping statement as this: "I don't believe that two persons can live agreeably without being members of the same church." Your head surely lacks the bump of Christian love, or you could not think that. What is more disgusting than to see members of different churches jealous of and working against each other, just for the sake of creed?

If we have the true love of Christ in our hearts, we can live agreeably with all men. Do you think if one does his very best, according to his knowledge of right and wrong, that our heavenly Father will question what church he belonged to on earth? Then, why must members of a family belong to the same church? I wish you would give reasons for your belief.

What a pity your letter was not printed before December 31. I am sure there would have been a perfect deluge of postal cards at your office. But, cheer up, the members of the circle will be older and wiser seven years from to-day, so there may be many willing to comfort you in time of trouble.

Fleurdelis, Nil and Bitter Sweet, won't you please come forward and give an account of yourselves?

Tom Quartz, if the girls have annihilated you, let me know and you shall be avenged. Let us hear more of a teachers' circle.

In spite of the great snow storms and blizzards that have prevailed this winter, a new friend who signs her letter "Spindleshanks," comes from the extreme northwest, for a little visit with the Merry-Go-Rounds:

I have been a reader of The Blade for some time, and now come asking for admittance to the M. G. R. My home is in the extreme northwestern part of the United States, on the Straits of Juan De Fuca.

Our town is in marked contrast to the home of Rattle Trap, there being at one time, I am very sorry to say, seventeen saloons in a town of six thousand inhabitants. As for myself, I am a total abstainer and never tasted a drop of liquor in my life.

Like Pussy, I expect to attend the state Normal School next September, but at present am taking the classical course of our high school.

In closing, I would like to say to Takigrafer, that I fully agree with him as to the excellence of our motto, and wish we all might live up to it, in word and deed.

I send best wishes to the M. G. R.'s, and an earnest request to come again.

Would like to know if we have a state president, and, if so, his name.

Coralyn:—Owing to an error of mine, a part of the explanation I made concerning the I. A. H. Circle could not be printed. To give Curiosity a clearer idea of what it is, let me add this: The letters I. A. H. which are inscribed on a silver ring, the badge worn by every member, abbreviate the words, "I am His." The circle was organized by David C. Cook, the great publisher of Sunday school supplies in October, 1895.

Tell Phrenologist that I think there are Christians so very sectarian that a marriage outside of their church fellowship would be unwise. But the really fundamental teachings of the Protestant churches differ very little.

Everywhere about us we see men of equal education and experience holding widely varying opinions as to what we should eat, drink or wear, but to this one fact they all agree—that these physical bodies must be fed and clothed.

Is it any wonder that in this greater question—the one of soul growth—they should hold unlike views regarding the creeds to be held, and the teachings to be followed that shall best induce that growth?

It is possible to be so devoted to the love and service of Christ as to lose sight of petty sectarianism, and see that "the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him."

New England Girl came in just in time to give this brief greeting to some of the members, before the meeting was adjourned till next week:

Etna, take the next train east and bring your gun with you. Your services will be more appreciated.

Drexel, I sympathize with you.

Southerner, it is more an easy when the answer isn't just what they expected.

Elaine, you will have seen my "modesman" ere this, if Miss Prudence hasn't been so heartless as to have thrown him into the waste basket.

Pussy, I think there ought to be a compulsory education law in every state.

THE GRUMBLIES AND THE SMILIES.

Oh, there never was yet
Such a hard-used set
They have to work, and to sew,
When every one knows they hate it so,
And mamma is always a-saying, "No,
While Grandmamma's getting the dreadfullest way.

Of asking for something most every day!
At dinner there's nothing that's fit to eat;
And somebody else has the brownest meat,
Or the soup's too hot, or the bread's too dry,
And they never did like that kind of pie.

So they're grumbly and growly,
And sulky and scowly,
Till every one thinks we could get on, without them;
Poor Grumblies! I feel so sorry about them!

But who can be glum
When the Smilies come?
They are always polite; and errands, they say,
Are never too hard or too far away.
And whether they work, or whether they play,
Their faces are bright as a new-minted dime.
And they have just the jolliest kind of a time.
And every one's happy to have them nigh;
For if ever a bit of a cloud comes by,
They are whisking it inside out in a minute,
And finding the silvery lining that's in it.

They're funny and sunny,
And sweeter than honey,
And always a-scattering sunshine about them.
Dear Smilies! Why, how could we live without them?
—Our Little Men and Women.

MISS PRUDENCE'S TOWER.

She Explores the Wild West and Has a Really Delightful Time.

I was somewhat disappointed in not being able to pay my California President a visit, but as she failed to respond to my overtures, I was obliged to content myself with car-window views of the Golden State, as I passed through on my way to Oregon, where I was the guest of Walter Douglas, M. G. R., president for that state.

I shall never forget the magnificent scenery to which he introduced me as we journeyed northward. It is indescribable, and I will only give an account here of Crater Lake and the stage line leading from it to Ashland.

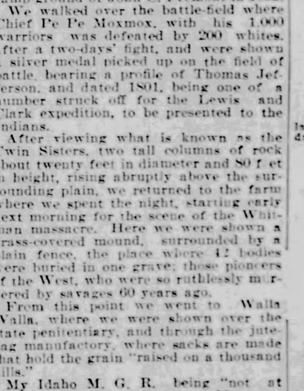
This lake was aptly termed by my host "the cistern of the gods." It is on or within the summit of a cone 8,000 feet above the sea level, and is seven miles long by five miles wide—a vast, egg-shaped bowl, with water-line 2,000 feet below the brim.

Near the southwest margin, half a mile from shore there rises from the water a cinder cone 700 feet in height, covered with timber.

As the visitor nears the brink of the cliff, he suddenly sees before him an expanse of ultramarine blue; the water is mirror-like and reflects an inverted image of the surrounding walls.

The scenery along the stage line was beautiful, indeed. The great Oregon Desert lay to the east, and Bear Creek Butter to the northeast; on the north, the white summits of Diamond Peak, the Three Sisters and Mt. Jefferson were in plain view, and to the west the coast range showed dark in its forest covering.

From Ashland we went, via Eugene, Albany and Salem, to Portland, where,



through the courtesy of the superintendent, we visited the exposition "free gratis, for nothing."

We found much to interest us there, though my host slyly apologized for the smallness of the building, which only covered six and one-half acres!

Going by cable car to Mt. Tabor, we looked down from the heights upon the three cities, Portland, East Portland and Albina, and upon ocean steamers lying along the wharves.

From Portland we went to St. Helens, inspected the government works, a jetty three miles long, then up the Columbia river in a steamer to the Dalles.

The river is from one to one and a half miles wide, and on either side rise precipitous bluffs covered with a mantle of evergreen, while beyond stands Mt. Hood.

On the Oregon side lay the road-bed of the U. P. R. R., and every now and then were great massive rocks, 40 to 60 feet in diameter, rising to a height of over 150 feet.

Leaving my host at The Dalles, I took the train for Wallula Junction, where I was met by the Washington president, Mr. Frank Goodwin, who took me in a carriage to his fruit farm.

Our first expedition was to the top of a hill near by, where, from a height of 1,600 feet, we had an extensive view, embracing three perpetually snow-covered mountains, 100 miles distant, and objects in ten different counties.

After luncheon we visited Homily Rapids, on the Columbia, and there procured a boat and, floating down the river's broad surface, holding a line with a hook attached that was fitted with a small silver wheel that revolved to attract the attention of unwary fish, I caught my first and only salmon, a forty-pounder, that, in its mad efforts to part company with The Blade's representative, jumped entirely over the boat!

I was shown the ruins of an old adobe fort, built by the Hudson Bay company 75 years ago; the very spot where Lewis and Clark camped in 1804, and the camp-ground of John C. Fremont in 1832.

We walked over the battle-field where Chief Pe Pe Moxmox, with his 1,000 warriors was defeated by 200 whites, after a two-days' fight, and were shown a silver medal picked up on the field of battle, bearing a profile of Thomas Jefferson, and dated 1801, being one of a number struck off for the Lewis and Clark expedition, to be presented to the Indians.

After viewing what is known as the Twin Sisters, two tall columns of rock about twenty feet in diameter and 80 feet in height, rising abruptly above the surrounding plain, we returned to the farm where we spent the night, starting early next morning for the scene of the Whitman massacre. Here we were shown a grass-covered mound, surrounded by a plain fence, the place where 42 bodies were buried in one grave; those pioneers of the West, who were so ruthlessly murdered by savages 60 years ago.

From this point we went to Walla Walla, where we were shown over the state penitentiary, and through the jute-bag manufactory, where sacks are made that hold the grain raised on a thousand hills.

My Idaho M. G. R. being "not at home" I crossed to the state of Montana, where I was the guest of the president, Mr. J. Frank Cooper, who took me first of all for a drive through the celebrated Dale Ranches, where some of the finest and fastest horses in America are raised and trained for the "turf."

The fruit-gatherers stripping the orchards of their burdens, the jockeys handling the horses, farm laborers threshing the golden grain, all went to make up a scene of activity that was very interesting.

The next morning my host presented himself at the hotel where he had secured accommodations for me, riding a dapple-grey steed, and leading by the bridle his little "Bay Beauty," furnished with a side-saddle, and informed me that I was to mount and ride away with him.

I never did such a thing before, but after my bicycle experience in Washington I felt equal to anything. We sailed forth to visit Lake Como, the greatest summer resort in Western Montana.

Arriving there we secured a boat and sped for an hour over the placid, crystal waters of the lake.

Pending ourselves with a lunch, we visited the beautiful waterfalls above the lake, and from there climbed to the top of a high peak from which five small but picturesque lakes can be seen nestling among the mountains.

The summits of the mountains, covered with sparkling snow, bordered with cliffs of granite rocks and forests of evergreen trees, and surrounding the lakes, made a grand and lovely scene.

Returning to the lake we remounted our horses and rode to "Bachelor's Hall," the abode of my host, who proceeded to serve up a dinner of venison, wild fowl, etc., that altered my opinions most decidedly concerning the helplessness of "old bachelors."

Back to the city and away by train across Wyoming and Colorado, where the M. G. R.'s were again "not receiving," through Indian territory to the small square near its centre called Oklahoma, where I was met by "Lavalette," my one-time Texas member, who piloted me through a country made beautiful by grain-fields and fruit-farms, and gave me a peep at soldier-life in Fort Sill.

This point of interest was reached after a five hour's ride over the sand hills, with a brisk wind blowing from the north! We visited the parade-ground at the fort, witnessed the drill of the soldiers and were permitted to investigate the pest at our leisure.

In the evening he took me to an Apache camp one mile north of Cache Creek where I was an interested spectator for an hour or more at a "war dance."

A great fire of logs and brush was built and all the Indians formed a circle around it, singing and dancing until they were exhausted, then seating themselves on the ground near by, where the big chief sat beating continually on the Indian "tom-tom," they added to the din by beating with small sticks on a rawhide spread upon the ground before them, and all joining in the war-whoop.

When they were rested sufficiently they took their places in the circle again, and the dance was thus kept up for more than six hours.

I was somewhat interested also in the noted chief Geronimo, who is held here by the government as a prisoner of war. He looked hale and hearty, though he is known to have passed the "three score and ten" limit.

During my visit at the Fort, we went to the Kiowa and Comanche Agency, to watch the issuing of beef and money to the Indians.

The beef is given out every Saturday, but the money is distributed only twice a year. We visited the Indian school also, where some three hundred Indians of both sexes are being educated.

Two hundred miles from Guthrie, we visited old Ft. Gibson, where many martial buildings still stand, among them the historic log cabin, occupied by Lieutenant Jefferson Davis, who afterward became President of the Southern cause.

From Oklahoma my course led in a northerly direction to Kansas, where our much-absent, but never disconcerted friend Philosopher made me feel very much at home.

Nebraska was my next objective point, and here Pansy Blossom met me at the Silver Creek station, and took me to her home ten miles out in the country, crossing the Platte River on our way, by means of a bridge one mile long!

The Platte is nearly as wide in some places as the Mississippi, but at the time of my visit, it was so low that the water appeared only in little pools here and there.

The scenery near Pansy Blossom's home was very beautiful, and an actual relief to me, after seeing so many mountains.

By standing on a hill not far from the house, we could look down into the valley, seeing the Platte, five different towns, and, far away in the distance the Loupe river.

The next day, in company with my hostess I made a tour of the farm, visiting the apiary, etc., and had a pleasant drive, crossing the Platte over five bridges going from one small island to another, passing through the village of Clarkes and returning home by a different route.

A short visit at Osceola with Marigold closed my outing in Nebraska, and I took up my line of march once more, my next stop being in South Dakota, where I was entertained by my president, "Mollie Moore," who shall give the history of our visit in her own words.

To Be Continued.

OUR WONDER COLUMN

1.—WHO W

News of the Week.

The Blade is a newspaper for free American citizens, and under the above head, aims to give first, those events which are the history and progress of the world for the week—those which every intelligent man needs to know and should know; second, all important political events; and lastly, the leading minor occurrences that possess interest to every educated and thinking reader.

GREECE AND CRETE.

SULTAN SUBMITS.

Greece is Now in Possession of Greece.

Constantinople, Feb. 16.—The council of ministers has been sitting at the Yildiz Kiosk all day long. As a state of war between Greece and Turkey practically exists, although it has not been officially declared, it is believed that the council will decide to recall the Turkish minister at Athens, Assim Bey, and give the Greek minister here, Prince Maurocordato, his passports.

Athens, Feb. 16.—It is generall believed here that the Cretan features of the eastern question is now almost a thing of the past, and that the landing of Greek troops on the island of Crete, is exclusively announced by The Associated Press yesterday afternoon, is not likely to turn out causus belli between Turkey and Greece. The absolute decision of Greece to persist in the occupation of Crete and the protection of the Christians of that island in spite of the attitude of the powers, is founded on the declaration of the Cretans that they are prepared to shed the last drop of their blood in order to attain their national aspirations, to which they add, can not be satisfied with anything short of complete union with Greece. These circumstances were communicated by Greece to the powers, and the policy of the Greek government has been carried out in every point.

Greek War Order.

An order of the minister of war, M. Smolenitz, has been gazetted, appointing Col. Vassos, aide-de-camp of King George, commander of the Greek army corps landed yesterday at Platonic, a short distance from Canea.

After explaining that the action of Greece is do to the fact that she is unable to tolerate any longer the "lamentable situation of the Christians in Crete to whom we are united by the sacred ties of religion, the order proceeds:

"The government, consequently, has decided to occupy the island in the name of King George, and raise his flag over the fortresses, of which you will take possession.

"All your actions shall be accomplished in conformity with the Greek laws, in the name of King George, and on the responsibility of his government.

"So soon as you have landed you will publish a proclamation announcing the occupation of the island by the Greek troops."

This has been done. Col. Vassos, after landing at Platonic, issued a proclamation to the Cretan people, announcing the occupation of the island in the name of King George of Greece and calling upon the Turks to surrender to the Greek forces. The reserves, who have been called to the colors, are rapidly registering at the different military centers. It is hoped, however, that the most serious difficulty to be anticipated is a possible reverence of diplomatic relations between Greece and Turkey.

Annexation Accomplished.

The annexation of Crete by Greece, a result foreshadowed in these dispatches at the commencement of the disturbances, is now a fait accompli, and it is not thought likely that the powers will do anything further in the matter than they have done, namely, formally occupy the island for the present.

In the meanwhile diplomatic negotiations on the subject continue between the ambassadors of the powers at Constantinople, who in turn are in constant communication with the porte.

Reinforcements of men, arms and ammunition are on their way from Greece to Crete, and it is intimated that in due course of time the marines from the foreign war ships will be recalled and Greece will be allowed to assume the administration of Crete, possibly under some restrictions.

The announcement that Prince Nicholas will start for Larissa, Thessaly, with his regiment, to-morrow, created the greatest enthusiasm in military circles. King George, the royal family and the government are now in the highest possible favor with the people, and Prince George is certain of receiving a grand welcome when he returns to the Piraeus with the torpedo flotilla.

TURKISH TRANSPORT STOPPED.

City of Canea Besieged by the Christians.

London, Feb. 15.—Greece has put all Europe to shame. She has defied the great powers, and in spite of their solemn warnings has virtually begun war against Turkey.

Her reply to the combined protest of Europe was made Saturday by her minister of foreign affairs. It is a laconic message, worthy of a people of their splendid heritage.

"Greece accepts full responsibility for all her acts."

Her first act under that spirited declaration was to fire upon a Turkish transport carrying ammunition to a besieged garrison near Canea and to drive it back. Her next was to call out her army reserves, and her third to embark a regiment of soldiers for the invasion of Crete.

The first effect of this policy of magnificent courage or bravado was an incident which will make every self-respecting Englishman grind his teeth with shame and disgust. A British naval officer sent by the British admiral commanding the British fleet of Canea called upon the commander of the Greek cruiser which had fired upon the Turkish flag and protested in the name of Great Britain against the action. The second effect of the spirited conduct of plucky little Greece has been interesting also.

Sultan Calls on the Powers.

The Sultan at Constantinople as soon as he heard that a Greek man-of-war had fired on his ship, sent his foreign minister trotting around to all the ambassadors to say the great powers must promptly restrain the Athens government or else Turkey would "follow her own course."

Of course the ambassadors quickly telegraphed to six capitals, and already news comes from Athens that the ministers of the foreign powers "made verbal representations."

The events of the last 48 hours have changed the situation with startling rapidity from one of serious crisis to actual war.

The firing upon the Turkish transport Fuad was done by the Greek cruiser Miaulis. The Fuad was carrying arms and ammunition, not troops, to the

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

WASHINGTON.

REPUBLICANISM GAINING

In the States of Principal Importance.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The farmers and friends of the farmers have, during the past week continued their attention to the ways and means committee, with a fair degree of success. While the schedules of the new tariff bill are not all yet completed, and while those which have been completed are carefully guarded by the committee, it is understood that the protection given to farm products generally is ample. The whole schedule is not yet shaped, and while it is not likely that the suggestion of the Wool Growers' Association can be fully complied with, there is reason to believe that the schedule will be a fairly satisfactory one.

The farmers and their friends who are reminding the ways and means committee that it is under obligations to the agricultural interests of the country, find a very strong argument in some figures which have been just brought to the surface here. These figures cover the vote in the agricultural states in each national election since 1890, and show a remarkable growth in Republican sentiment in these states. It is found that in practically every agricultural state there has been a steady gain in the percentage of the total vote which is given to the Republican electors. For instance: Illinois, which in 1890 gave only 46 per cent of her vote to the Republican candidate gave 56 in 1896; Indiana, which gave 46 per cent to the Republicans in 1890, gave 52 per cent in 1896; Iowa increased her percentage of Republican votes from 47 per cent in 1890 to 55 per cent in 1896. Even Kansas, which has wavered in its loyalty to the Republican party under the adversities of the past few years, increased the percentage of the Republican votes from 42 per cent in 1890 to 48 per cent in 1896. The Republican vote of Michigan jumped from 45 per cent of the total in 1890 to 56 per cent of the total in 1896; Minnesota, from 41 per cent in 1890 to 56 per cent in 1896; Missouri, from 42 per cent in 1890 to 45 per cent in 1896; Nebraska, from 34 per cent in 1890 to 46 per cent in 1896; North Dakota, from 48 per cent in 1892 to 55 per cent in 1896; Oregon, from 45 per cent in 1892 to 50 per cent in 1896; South Dakota, from 44 per cent in 1890 to 48 per cent in 1896, and Wisconsin from 42 per cent in 1890 to 60 per cent in 1896.

Manufacturing Table Also.

In the manufacturing states the increase was equally marked. In Connecticut, the Republicans increased their proportion of the total vote from 47 per cent in 1890 to 63 per cent in 1896; Maine from 56 per cent in 1890 to 68 per cent in 1896; Massachusetts, from 47 per cent in 1890 to 69 per cent in 1896; New Hampshire from 48 per cent in 1890 to 68 per cent in 1896; New York from 40 per cent in 1890 to 58 per cent in 1896; Pennsylvania, from 51 per cent in 1890 to 67 per cent in 1896; Vermont from 68 per cent in 1890 to 80 percent in 1896.

The gains which the Republicans are making in the norther border states and the probability that they will be able to continue their control of these states is shown by the steady gains made there.

In Delaware the Republicans in 1890 cast 49 per cent of the total , and in 1896, 54 per cent; in Maryland, 43 per cent in 1890 and 54 per cent in 1896; West Virginia, 46 per cent in 1890 and 53 per cent in 1896; in Kentucky, 27 per cent in 1890 and 49 per cent in 1896; Tennessee, 37 per cent in 1892 and 48 per cent in 1896; in Virginia, 33 per cent in 1890 and 46 per cent in 1896; North Carolina, 36 per cent in 1892 and 49 per cent in 1896.

Interesting Table.

The figures in total are given in the following tables. They are worthy a careful examination, and should be laid aside for reference. They show plainly the steady and unresisting growth of Republican sentiment in all sections aside from those where local interests control.

Table showing the percentage of the total vote given to the Republican candidates in each of the agricultural states in each national election since and including 1890:

State.	1890	1892	1894	1896
California	51	43	41	49
Illinois	46	45	52	56
Indian	46	46	51	52
Iowa	47	49	55	55
Kansas	42	48	51	48
Michigan	45	49	57	56
Minnesota	41	32	53	56
Missouri	42	42	46	45
Nebraska	34	43	49	46
North Dakota	58	48	55	55
Ohio	47	47	54	53
Oregon	55	45	47	50
South Dakota	44	49	52	48
Wisconsin	42	45	54	60

Table showing the percentage of the total vote given to the Republican candidate in each of the manufacturing states on each national election since and including 1890:

State.	1890	1892	1894	1896
Connecticut	47	47	55	63
Maine	56	54	64	68
Massachusetts	47	51	68	69
New Hampshire	48	51	67	68
New Jersey	45	46	55	59
New York	40	45	55	58
Pennsylvania	51	51	61	67
Rhode Island	45	50	68	67
Vermont	68	68	76	80

Table showing the percentage of the total vote given to the Republican candidates in each of the Border Southern states in each national election since and including 1890:

State.	1890	1892	1894	1896
Delaware	49	48	51	54
Maryland	43	43	54	54
West Virginia	46	46	53	53
Kentucky	27	39	45	49

—The surest Cough cure is Dr. D. Jayne's Expectorant, and even the money it costs is less than for most other remedies; it takes so little of it.

Aid digestion with Jayne's Painless Sanative Pills.

PACIFIC RAILROADS.

Sale Proposed a Good Thing for the Government.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Government Director Coombs, of the Union Pacific railroad, is in the city for the purpose of furthering the proposed foreclosure sale of the Union Pacific Railroad and the Kansas Pacific Railroad, which is a branch of the Union Pacific, and incidentally to see what can be done about placing the Central Pacific Railroad in the same category as the Union and Kansas Pacific. He expresses great confidence that the government will obtain a very large share of the amounts due it from the Union and Kansas Pacific roads if the plan of the foreclosure is carried out, as he has no doubt it will be, unless the bills now before congress should pass which is considered highly improbable.

"Under the proposed foreclosure," said Mr. Coombs, "the government will get back all of the money which it put into the Union Pacific road and the Kansas Pacific branch so far as relates to the principal of the bonds. It will probably not get back all of the money which it has paid in interest, but more than half of it, probably. It will get all of the principal, and about 3½ per cent interest, while it has paid 6 per cent interest on the bonds. This, however, while it does not absolutely compensate the government for all of its expenditures, comes so much nearer it than had generally been supposed, that I think the people will be very well satisfied with the result."

"What about the Central Pacific, Mr. Coombs?"

"That is a matter with which I have nothing to do officially. As a citizen, however, and having studied these Pacific railroad questions generally, my judgment is that it would be better if foreclosure action could be taken in regard to the Central Pacific as well as the Union Pacific, and both railroads placed on sale at about the same time. This would make something of a stir in the railroad world, to be sure, but probably it would be the most direct method of protecting the government, and at the same time making a reasonably advantageous sale to all parties concerned. I do not know what will be done, of course, with reference to the Central Pacific, and I think the foreclosure of the Union Pacific and its sale will go on according to the present plans, and be satisfactorily completed."

RUSHED IT THROUGH.

Sundry Civil Appropriation Passed Under Suspension.

Washington, Feb. 15.—(House.)—The general rush of business which marks the closing days of Congress was forcibly brought home to the members of the House to-day by the adoption of a special order for night sessions to-night and to-morrow night for the consideration of private pension bills. By the terms of the order these sessions will terminate at 11:30 p. m.

On motion of Mr. Hitt, the House concurred in the Senate amendments to the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill.

This was suspension day, and the speaker recognized Mr. Reeves (Rep., Ill.) to move the passage under a suspension of the rules of a substitute for the Senate bill appropriating $250,000 for closing the crevasse in the Mississippi levee at Pass L'Outre, Louisiana.

The substitute appropriated the same sum to be deducted from the sum due under the Eades contract in case the courts should decide that he was liable for the repairs under his contract with the government. The bill was passed.

Then came the coup which had been arranged by the House leaders. Mr. Cannon, the chairman of the appropriations committee, moved to suspend the rules and pass the sundry civil appropriation bill. General debate on this measure, carrying slightly in excess of $50,000,000, closed on Saturady, and to save time and avoid risk of amendment this plan of passing the bill without debate under the five-minute rule was adopted. The bill consists of 111 pages, and as the clerk began to read it Mr. W. A. Stone, of Pennsylvania, asked that the reading be dispensed with. Mr. Sayers (Dem., Tex.) essayed to make an explanation of which he did not think it was necessary to pursue this unusual course, but Mr. Cannon protested against debate, whereupon Mr. Turner (Rep., Ga.) objected to dispensing with the formal reading of the bill, and the reading proceeded.

The bill was passed without a division.

M'KINLEY ELECTED AT LAST.

Formal Canvass of the Electoral College Vote.

Washington, Feb. 10.—The first public exercises in connection with the incoming administration occurred at the capitol today when the two houses of Congress in joint session in the spacious hall of representatives counted the electoral vote of the various states and listened to Vice President Stevenson formally promulgate the election of Wm. McKinley as President and Garrett A. Hobart as Vice President of the United States. Although the sky was overcast with dull leaden clouds the weather was pleasant and propitious.

As is usual on state occasions the public streamed into the capitol in great crowds, but the galleries of the House save for a small space capable of seating only 200 persons, were strictly reserved for ticket holders so the stairways and elevators were besieged in vain by the eager multitudes. The tickets had been distributed by the Senators and Representatives and the spectators consequently constituted a most distinguished assemblage.

Although the ceremonies were not to begin until 1 o'clock the galleries were thrown open to the fortunate possessors of tickets at 10 o'clock and within half an hour all the galleries except those reserved for the diplomatic corps and the President were packed to the doors, many ladies in gay toilets were present.

Galleries Crowded.

Exactly at 12 o'clock Speaker Reed ascended the rostrum and standing in front of the American flag which draped the wall in his rear with one sharp rap of his gavel subdued the babel of voices.

When the reading of the journal was concluded some routine matters in which the spectators were in nowise interested was transacted to kill time until the event of the day was due. At 12:50 p. m. the House took a recess for five minutes.

In the meantime every seat in the galleries save those reserved for the executiv and the diplomatic corps was taken. No member of the President's household was in the gallery reserved for him, but the family of Vice President Stevenson occupied one of the plush-covered benches.

Shortly before 1 o'clock the members of the Senate left their chamber at the north side of the capitol and walked across to the House. Then, in solemn procession, they filed in, preceded by Mr. Cox, clerk of the Senate, and Vice President Stevenson, and took their seats in the first four rows to the right of the Speaker's desk, which had been vacated for that purpose during the recess. The members of the House rose and remained standing while the Senators took their places. The assistant of Mr. Cox carried the red cherry clasped box, in which the returns of the 45 states reposed.

The Formal Ceremony.

Vice President Stevenson, who, by law, presided over the joint session, took his place by the side of Speaker Reed. The tellers, Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, and Senator Blackburn, of Kentucky, on behalf of the Senate and Mr. Grosvenor, of Ohio, and Mr. Richardson, of Tennesseb, on behalf of the House, ascended to the clerk's desk immediately below the speaker's table, and proceeded to count the vote.

The formal certificate of Alabama was read in full by Mr. Blackburn, after which the reading of the long certificates was dispensed with on the motion of Senator Sherman, the tellers simply announcing the result after ascertaining by inspection that they were in due form.

When the count was completed Vice President Stevenson made the formal announcement of the election of William McKinley as President and Garret A. Hobart as Vice President of the United States. The vote was as follows:

McKinley, 271 electoral votes; Bryan, 176; Vice President—Hobart, 271; Sewall, 149; Watson, 27.

IT IS A GO.

Venezuela Congress Will Ratify the Agreement.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Information has been received here from Venezuela to the effect that the arbitration treaty signed in Washington by Sir Julian Pauncefote and Senor Andrade has safely reached Caracas, and will be laid before the Venezuelan congress as soon as it convenes. It is said on the best authority, that the ratification of the treaty is practically assured; that all the substantial opposition has disappeared upon a more accurate popular understanding of the terms of the agreement, and that the attempt by Crespo's enemies to foment hostility to the treaty and make a political issue of it, has signally failed.

FOR MARCH 4TH.

Arrangements for McKinley's Inauguration Nearly Complete.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The arrangements for the inauguration of President-elect McKinley two weeks from Thursday, are rapidly nearing completion, and the indications are that in point of brilliancy and attractiveness, the ceremonies, the decorations and the festivities incident to inauguration week will be more lavish than those of former years. In the decorations of the ball-room finer results are expected than ever before. All spectacular effects will be avoided, and a more artistic and harmonious arrangement of flowers, lights and bunting will be secured. About $13,000 will be spent by the inaugural committee in decorating the main ball room and the private rooms set apart for the use of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential parties. The President and Vice-President with their families will attend the ball, and will be in charge of a reception committee of which Major General Nelson A. Miles is the chairman. The cost of tickets to the ball has been fixed at $5, for each person, and $1 extra if supper is desired. In answer to many inquiries received at headquarters, it may be stated that no invitations to the ball are necessary to secure tickets and none are issued, except to foreign ministers. The promenade concert will consist of six selections, and the dance programmes contain 23 numbers. The ball will be held Thursday night, and in addition, a series of five inaugral grand concerts will be given in the ball room on the following Friday and Saturday.

The probabilities are that the parade will be very large. General Horace Porter, of New York, with the members of his staff, is busy with the details of arranging the divisions.

WHAT IS A FILIBUSTER?

The Supreme Court Will Define the Term.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Whether or not the steamer Three Friends is a filibuster, and what according to strict legal definition "filibuster" really is, are the questions that the supreme court has made the special order for to-day. The questions involved are of the highest importance not merely to the Cubans and their allies in this country, but to all nations engaged in commerce on the high seas.

The proceedings have been initiated by Attorney General Harmon, and grow out of the recent decision of Judge Locke, of Jacksonville, which held in effect that the Cuban insurgents were not a people, a state, a district or a colony, within the meaning of the section of the revised statutes under which was brought the libel that sought to prevent her taking a cargo of arms, ammunition and volunteers to Cuba; and that consequently the expedition was a political one.

The attorney general, or rather the government, holds on the other hand that the Three Friends at the time of her being libeled was either engaged on a political expedition against a friendly power, or else was a pirate; her arms and mounted cannon demonstrating that her mission could not be a peaceful one. When the supreme court was asked for a writ of certiorari, its response was prompt, the court admitting that the situation was a most delicate one, and that a grave question of international law which demanded immediate adjudication was involved. It is thought that the arguments can be concluded in one day.

APPROPRIATION BILLS.

Will Occupy the Remaining Time of Congress.

Washington, Feb. 15.—In two weeks from Thursday the present Congress expires by limitation, and from this time forward all things legislative will have to give way to the appropriation bills which must be passed before the final adjournment.

Although the House has disposed of 10 of the 13 regular appropriation bills, two of the three which remain—the sundry civil and the general deficiency—are those containing the miscellaneous items which provoke the most bitter opposition, both for their sins of omission and commission. Those who are interested in the river and harbor projects authorized by the last river and harbor bill, for which no provision is made in the sundry civil bill, are bristling with fight. The friends of the free home bill as amended by the Senate would like to saddle this measure also on the sundry civil as the only means of resurrecting. There are other antagonists, but the opposition is utterly unorganized, and it has been decided by Speaker Reed and Mr. Cannon, who are working like Trojans to keep down appropriations, to try to coup by which they expect to put through the bill under suspension of the rules to-day.

STEEL RAILS FOR JAPAN.

Mikado's Government Orders 13,000 Tons and British Makers Wince.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The English steel trade has again received a severe shock through the announcement that an American firm has in open competition secured a contract for the delivery of 13,000 tons of steel rails to the Japanese government. The American underbid the lowest English competitor 6 pence per ton and is already shipping the rails, to the great alarm of the British steel makers.

BRADLEY MARTIN BALL.

Its Equal in Magnificent Extravagance Has Never Been Seen.

New York, Feb. 11.—Gotham is content. The Bradley Martin ball was a great success. The diamond wedding of 1859 pales in the blaze of last night's splendor. The Vanderbilt ball of 1883 is thrown into the shadow of eclipse by last night's magnificent extravagance. The Bradley Martins have been the talk of the continent, and the breeze of notoriety has wafted sounds of the chatter across the sea. Gotham has begun a new social era. The Bradley Martin ball cost $500,000, more or less.

Everybody says it was a great success, and as everybody who is anybody was there, it must be so; or, if a few were not bidden or refused to join in the revel, they do not count. Very properly the Waldorf was not large enough to give free elbow room.

Musicians of many lands and many shades made the fleeting hours throb with their melodies. Flowers decked the gorgeous rooms and the moving figures, splattering their colors and odors in riotous excess.

The restless throng, moving hither and thither in the mazes of a kaleidoscope, was a marvelous reflection from the gay days of the gay Louis XIV and his successors, of King Charles and of the directoire. There were kings and courtiers in frills and laces, queens and grande dames in powdered hair and forgotten fashions, cardinals and cavaliers in wigs and mantles. All were in the quaint costumes of bygone ages, and stepped with the stateliness becoming their characters.

Everywhere was to be seen the flash of diamonds, the fire of opals, and the lambent flames of gems of many kinds. Old lace, much of it tinged with age and most of it precious with history or association, lent its filmy graces to these knights and ladies of Louis the Grand.

There never was such a sight seen before in New York as in the grand ball room, and rarely elsewhere since the times which were reproduced and depicted by the figures on the floor. There was never before such a splendid apartment in New York which lent itself so grandly to the conditions of a ball costume. There never were so many beautiful women gathered together, and never was a more lavish display of feminine finery.

In the early portion of the evening dancing in the main ball room on the first floor was general, but it was not until all the guests had paid their respects to Mrs. Bradley Martin and she had been escorted to the ball room proper, that the fancy dress ball was declared formally opened.

In the small gallery where were members of the Twenty-second regiment band and the Hungarian band, a flourish of trumpets announced the entrance of Mrs Bradley Martin and her escort, Mr. John Jacob Astor, into the room. A moment later they had taken their places at the head of the room; there was another flourish of trumpets which told that the quadrille d'honneur, led by Mrs. William Astor, was about to open.

After the first measure followed "the figure" and "the honor," both of which were more elaborate. The second quadrille, which had been organized by Mrs F. L. Baylies, was danced by Mrs. Ogden Mills, Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Mrs Cornelius Vanderbilt, jr., Mrs. Henry Sloane, Miss Edith Morton, Miss Van Rennselaer, Messrs. Alfonso De Navarro, H. D. Dobbins and Worthington Whitehouse.

The cotillon, which was led by Mr. Elisha Dyer, jr., was the event which had been looked forward to by the younger guests, and there were nearly 200 couples in it. Mr. Dyer appeared as Francois I, in a rich costume, consisting of a cloak of royal purple velvet, lined with violet satin and embroidered with gold.

Light refreshments were served throughout the evening, but it was not until after 1 o'clock when the regular supper began. This was served at small tables in the winter garden. American beauties and lilacs were banked so high that the guests seemed to eat from the top of a flower bed. Beyond the tables and between the guests so as almost to hide one from another, were decorations of spring flowers, tulips, lilacs and rare blossoms.

MAJOR M'KINLEY HAS GRIP.

Mrs. McKinley is Also Confined to Her Room.

Canton, O., Feb. 16.—President-elect McKinley is kept in bed by his doctor this morning with his attack of influenza, which is epidemic here. It is not believed he will be able to take his contemplated trip to Cleveland to-morrow. Mrs. McKinley is also confined to her room, but is expected to be able to be out to-morrow. It is not thought Major McKinley will be able to receive callers for several days.

Private Secretary James Boyle said this morning that it has been his practice to make acknowledgement of all applications for office, as of all other communications; but the applications are now coming in in such a deluge that it will be impossible for him to make the customary acknowledgements, and that all he can do is simply to file applications in their respective departments.

At 10:45 this morning, Dr. Phillips, the family physician, had not yet made his morning call, as he desired Major McKinley to have all the uninterrupted rest possible. The President-elect passed a very restful night, and his condition is believed by the household to be improved over yesterday. All callers are, of course, denied admission.

At 1 o'clock Major McKinley was able to sit up in his room, but forbidden to see any one, or to leave his bed-chamber. His condition is regarded as much improved over yesterday, and with quiet and rest for a few days he will be all right. It is thought he will be able to go to Cleveland by Thursday or Friday. He passed a restful night and slept well into the morning.

End of the Free Silver Bank President.

New York, Feb. 15.—William P. St. John, ex-president of the Mercantile National Bank, and treasurer of the Democratic national committee, died suddenly at his home in this city last night.

Sneezed to Death.

New York, Feb. 11.—Doctors state positively to-day that the death of George Housey, of Greenwich Point, was due to sneezing. He was seized with a violent fit of sneezing Tuesday night, and was unable to stop. Finally a blood vessel in his head burst, causing instant death. The deceased was 60 years old.

A Noted Infidel Dead.

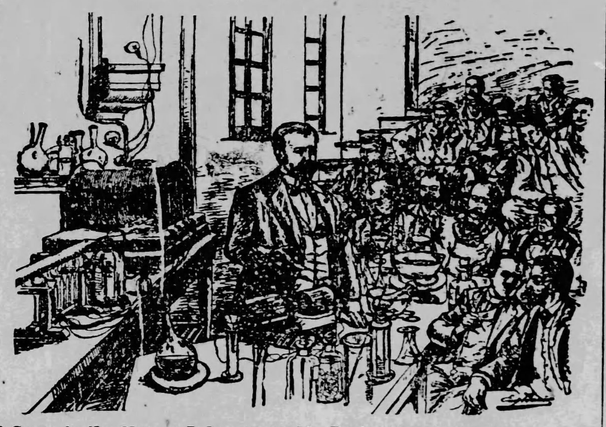
Niles, Mich., Feb. 13.—Joseph Corey, a noted infidel, is dead. He erected a tombstone containing blasphemous inscriptions 20 years ago. He was 92 years old.

All men should read Thos. Slater's offer on page 5.

A NEW TRIUMPH

Consumption Can Be Cured

Convincing Free Offer of an Eminent New York City Chemist and Scientist



A Scene in the Slocum Laboratory. The Doctor illustrating the merits of his newly discovered System of Medicine for Consumption to Medical Men and Students.

Nothing could be fairer, more philanthropic or carry more joy to the afflicted than the generous offer of the honored and distinguished chemist, T. A. Slocum, of New York city.

He has dicovered a reliable and absolute cure for consumption, and all bronchial, throat, lung and chest diseases, catarrhal affections, general decline and weakness, loss of flesh and all conditions of wasting away; and to make its great merits known, will send THREE FREE BOTTLES (all different) of his newly discovered System of Medicine, to any afflicted reader of The Toledo Blade.

Already his "new scientific system of medicine" has permanently cured thousands of apparently hopeless cases.

The Doctor considers it not only his professional, but his religious duty—a duty which he owes to suffering humanity—to donate his infallible cure.

He has proved the dreaded consumption to be a curable disease beyond a doubt, in any climate, and has on file in his American and European laboratories thousands of "heartfelt testimonials of gratitude" from those benefited and cured.

Catarrhal and pulmonary troubles lead to consumption, and consumption, uninterrupted, means speedy and certain death. Don't delay until it is too late. Simply write T. A. Slocum, M. C., 98 Pine street, New York, giving express and postoffice address, and the free medicine will be promptly sent. Every sufferer should take advantage of this most liberal proposition. Please tell the Doctor you saw his offer in The Toledo Blade, when writing, and greatly oblige.

CRETAN INSURGENT CHIEFS.

MANOUSOS KOUNDOURAKIS, President Cretan Provincial Government.

JOHANNIS PETROPOPOULKI, Who Began the Revolution.

One Result of the Shake-Up in the Iron Trade.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 11.—The Iron Trade Review this week will say:

Though not like a bolt out of a clear sky—for the clouds have been plentiful of late—the announcement that the steel rail pool had gone to pieces shook the iron trade profundly. It meant the sweeping away of the chief bulwark of the steel manufacturers against a profitless struggle for supremacy and the belief that the giants are now willing to try conclusions in an open field excites the liveliest speculation as to the outcome. The first effect of a $20 quotation by an Eastern mill was to make that the agreed price at the adjournment of Monday's Pittsburg meeting; with $21 as the Chicago basis. But on Tuesday it was evident that continued agreement was impossible and in the past two days quotations have gone as low as $17, Pennsylvania mills, in response to low quotations in the Chicago district. That the railroads will appreciate that the present opportunity warrants the straining of a point to make the necessary financial arrangements to buy now is a natural inference.

Two sales already reported are of 42,000 tons to Illinois Central by the Illinois Steel Company and 10,000 tons to the Santa Fe by the Carnegie Steel Company, both reported at about $17 mill. The extent of the complaint by railroads at the $25 basis would indicate a desire to buy, but for the price; and with the stimulus the market will receive from the placing of rail orders and the accompanying tonnage of track supplies, it is only a reasonable expectation that the start will come which has been so long delayed."

IRON PRICES SMASHED.

All Because Carnegie and Rockefeller Say So.

Chicago, Feb. 11.—The Tribune says: "The iron ore association, which have controlled prices and fixed the output of Lake Superior iron mines, stands directly in the track of the cyclone which has swept away every combination and pool in the iron and steel trade for the division of business and the maintenance of prices.

"What the Rockefeller-Carnegie combination will do in the ore pool will become manifest within a fortnight. The first announcement, it is said, will be in the shape of large sales of ore for delivery during the coming season of navigation without regard to the pool. Even more important than the collapse of the steel rail pool will be the termination of the ore pool. It will mean a terrific war on prices by all the iron mining companies of Northern Michigan and Minnesota. Among some there is a serious question if the iron ore pool has not already gone. In previous winters their production of every important mine in the Lake Superior region had been allotted, and prices fixed long before this time in February. As yet no allotment has been made, and no prices fixed for the coming season. Meetings have been held at Cleveland, but they have been fruitless in reaching an agreement. On all sides the sentiment is general that the ore pool can not be saved, and identically that the same influences which have wrecked every iron and steel combination in existence at the beginning of the year, will prevent the iron mining companies from reaching an agreement. In the war, the two great companies will be the Minnesota Iron company, with headquarters in this city, and the Lake Superior Consolidated Mines, controlled by John D. Rockefeller. Both operate in the Mesaba range, above Duluth, in Minnesota, although the Minnesota company has heavy interests in the Vermillion range also. Their railroads reach in the same region, and some of their properties adjoin each other. Further to the westward is the Mahoning mine, owned by Pennsylvania iron manufacturers.

War On Lake Superior.

"While every range in the Lake Superior region will be vitally affected by the outbreak of hostilities, the battleground will be the Mesaba range, where the leaders meet. President D. H. Bacon, of the Minnesota Iron company, says that he knows of no agreement covering the output of the mines or prices for 1897. He expected a larger demand for steel, and perhaps an export trade. This would certainly call on the mines for more ore. All Mr. Bacon would say regarding the impending struggle in the ore trade was: 'There are 300,000,000 tons of ore in sight in the Mesaba range. The Rockefeller holdings either in fee or under lease, including the fee of the Mountain Iron mine, which has been recently leased to the Carnegie Steel company, no doubt approximate 100,000,000 tons. The rest is held by people who have no connection with Mr. Rockefeller's interests.

"'Two tons of iron ore can be mined now in the Lake Superior region for every one that can be sold. Over two tons of steel rails can be made for every one used by the railroads. It is this unlimited capacity which will give such boundless opportunity for warfare. Either of the great companies on the Mesaba range could flood the market with ore once the contest has begun.'

"One marked effect of the collapse of the steel pool has been to stop all talk about raising the tariff on iron ore, iron and steel. Pittsburg manufacturers are reported as not disturbed by the report that the Merchants' Bar Association has gone the way of the rail pool. It was said the efforts of the association to maintain prices had been ineffectual from the time it was organized two years ago. The Pittsburg bar iron mill owners refused to join the association, and made it difficult, it was asserted, for the organized manufacturers to maintain their compact. The association included all the mills in the Mahoning and Shenango valleys."

STANDARD OIL.

The Big Trust is Reorganizing Its Plan.

New York, Feb. 15.—The Standard Oil Trust is in process of liquidation. Holders of its certificates have surrendered or will surrender them and receive instead stock in the Standard Oil Company of New York. This change is due to the prejudice which has been aroused against trusts and to the crystallization of that prejudice in the legislation of many states.

In becoming the Standard Oil Company of New York it acquires all those privileges which the corporation law of this state gives it and loses none of its trust characteristics. It is still the giant of its class and for the accommodations of its executive committee board, a chairman and general offices is enlarging the great buildings in lower Broadway, which when completed will be sixteen stories high, cover a ground space 100x130 feet and be occupied exclusively by the Standard.

This is the zenith of its prosperity. The building stands for its gigantic accomplishment. No other corporation in America can afford such a spread of offices in that heart of the highest-priced real estate on earth.

To-day the Standard faces the greatest battle of its existence. For the first time it has arrayed against it a combination of men learned in its methods, taught by its history and backed by invincible capital. Michael, John and Edward Cudahy, who form the Chicago meat packing firm known as Cudahy Brothers, with a strong branch of the never-defeated "big four," have entered the field as competitors of the oil monopolists. They began two years ago, and, although they confined their attention principally to the production and sale of fuel oil, they have established their ability to compete with the Standard, if not to overthrow it.

THE RUBBER TRUST.

Lexow's Committee Will Look Into Its Affairs.

New York, Feb. 12.—One of Senator Lexow's subpoena servers gave a nervous chill to Charles R. Flint, treasurer of the United States Rubber Company, known as the Rubber Trust, by serving a subpoena upon him. Mr. Flint was ordered to appear before the joint legislative investigating committee on Saturday. He said he would be present and give all the information he could, gladly. That was what John E. Searles, treasurer of the Sugar Trust, said, too, but it took a good deal of legal insistence to extract definite testimony from him.

The fact that Mr. Flint has been subpoenaed to testify on Saturday leads to the conclusion that the Rubber Trust is to be investigated after the committee completes its examination of Searles, the sugary witness. There will be an all-day session of the committee on Saturday, and there will be a session every day next week.

The committee was required to report to the legislature by March 1 by the resolution under which it was appointed, but the chances are that a request will be made to have the limit of time extended. It is said that the Wall Paper Trust, Tobacco Trust, Steamship Lines Trust, so called, and several others are to be probed by Senator Lexow and his colleagues.

The National Wall Paper Company, called the Wall Paper Trust, will be on the tapis next week, it is said. This corporation controls twenty-six of the largest wall paper concerns in the country, and is said to have a capital of $38,000,000. Senator Lexow may want to know where it go so much money, and how much its taxes amount to in this state. Like the Sugar Trust, however, the Wall Paper Trust has been through other investigations and continues to do business at the old stand just the same as before.

RICH GOLD FIND.

California Ore is Said to Yield $8,000 to the Ton.

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 16.—Great excitement has been created by the discovery in Randsburg of ore capable of producing $8,000 of gold to the ton. The vein shows only about four inches on the surface, but widens to double that width at a depth of three feet, which is the greatest depth attained. The ore is fabulously rich and shows very coarse gold —the coarsest, in fact, of any yet found in the camp.

BOUNDARY DISPUTE.

Utah and Arizona Have a Little Difference.

Kingman, Ariz., Feb. 16.—R. C. Lund and E. D. Woolly, the commissioners appointed by the Utah legislature to treat with the Arizona legislature for annexation of a part of Arizona north of the Colorado river to Utah, are here. They say the Pacific settlement of the boundary question will advance Arizona's chances for statehood. The territory involved lies north of the Colorado River from 150 to 250 miles away from the county seats. The commissioners will go to Flagstaff to-day, thence to Phoenix to get the legislature to memorialize Congress to make the segregation.

Radway's Pills

Purely vegetable, mild and reliable. For the cure of all disorders of the Stomach, Liver, Bowels, Kidneys, Bladder, Female Irregularities, Sick Headache, Biliousness, Constipation, Piles, one of Radway's Pills is sufficient to keep the bowels regular and secure PERFECT DIGESTION, and one of Radway's Pills will accomplish a better purpose than six of the ordinary drastic pills. A few doses will prove the correctness of this statement. Sold by Druggists, 25c a box, or by mail. RADWAY & CO., New York.

Markets and Crops.

THE TRADE REPORT.

Collapse of Rail Pool Has Brought Big Orders.

New York, Feb. 13.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says:

No other event of the week approaches in importance the disruption of the steel rail pool. In two days after it, a greater tonnage of rails was probably purchased than the entire production of last year, reported as 800,000 tons, and instead of $28 in December and $25 in January, $17 is now the price at which works east and west are seeking orders, the Carnegie company even selling at $17, Chicago delivery. These sales will employ many thousand hands, with an important decrease in the cost of track laying or renewals to railroads.

Even more important is the result that reconstruction of the billet pool will be impossible as long as the contest over rail continues, and the manufacture of structural forms, bars, rods, wire nails, tin plates and many other products has a chance to secure cheap material in the near future, also important is the struggle between the two great companies producing Mesaba iron ore, one allied with the Illinois Steel and the other with the Carnegie Company, which is expected to bring about lower prices for ore, and to push many mines to their utmost capacity. But in the war of rival interests wages are already reduced by some large concerns.

Another event of influence is the purchase of 750,000 pieces of print cloth by M. C. D. Borden at 2.56 cents, which has already caused an advance to 2.69 cents, with a stronger tone for prints and other cotton goods. The moral influence of such a purchase, manifesting confidence in the future, is apt to be great.

The woolen industry also meets an increased demand for low and medium goods, and a dozen more mills have started against three stopping for various reasons. Clay mixtures are reduced to 75 cents with other prices maintained.

Except in steel rails changes in iron products have been slight advances in grey forge, wire and cut nails.

Speculation in products has hardly been more active than of late, and prices generally tend downward. Wheat rose a cent to Tuesday, but has since declined 2.37 cents. Western receipts are increasing, but for two weeks has been only 3,191,395 bu., against 5,823,213 last year, while Atlantic exports, flour included, have been for the week about a quarter larger than last year and for two weeks 8,855,096 bu., against 3,638,125 last year.

Failures for the past week have been 267 in the United States, against 521 last year and 61 in Canada against 67 last year.

Heavy Grain Exports.

Philadelphia, Feb. 15.—The exports of grain from this port since January 1, is the largest in years. Up to the present time nearly two and a half million of bushels of corn and 300,000 bushels of wheat have been shipped to Europe. Charters are being affected for April, May, and even as late as June, lading at rates varying from three shillings a quarter.

REVIEW OF WEEK'S BUSINESS.

OFFICE OF THE TOLEDO BLADE,
Toledo, O., Feb. 16, 1897.

The following shows changes in government bonds during the past week:

	Feb. 16.	Feb. 9.
U. S. 4's (new), coupons	122⅝	122¼
U. S. 4's (new), registered	122⅝	122⅜
U. S. 5's, coupons	113⅝	113⅝
U. S. 5's, registered	113⅝	113⅝
U. S. 4's, coupons	113	112⅞
U. S. 4's, registered	111½	111⅜
U. S. 4's, registered	105¾	103¾
Pacific 6's of '98	105½	103½

Condition of the Grain Trade at the Close To-Day.

Wheat started in ⅜c lower to-day and weak on account of the more peaceful outlook in Europe. Closing was 1@1¼c lower. Corn recovered from the decline of yesterday. Cables were weak all day and lower. There were crop damage reports from the southwest, but they did not affect the markets. Receipts in the Northwest were light. Trade was slow and there was no marked disposition to do a big business. The markets kept heavy throughout, closing with a trifle steadier feeling.

Corn was dull and worked with wheat. The tendency of shorts to cover was over. The close was steadier. At Chicago February corn was worth 21⅜c; May, 23¾c; 23⅝@23¾c, then 22c bid; July, 24¼c; close, 24⅛@24⅜c. At New York May corn closed at 30⅞c, a rise to 29¾c, and closed at 29¼c asked; July, 30¾c; close, 30⅝c asked.

Prices of wheat to-day:

May.	Opened.	Highest.	Lowest.	Close.
Toledo	87¾	87¾	86¾	87
Chicago	74⅜	74⅜	73⅝	74
New York	80⅝	80⅝	79⅝	80⅜
St. Louis	85	85	83⅞	84

At Chicago February wheat was worth 72½c; July, 76⅜c; May, 74c then 73¾c; at New York July wheat opened at 77¼c, rose to 77½c bid, fell to 77⅛c, and closed at 77⅛c bid.

February pork at Chicago, $7.75 nominal; May, $7.92; close, $7.87.

February oats at Chicago, 14⅝c nominal; May, 17c; close, 17⅜c asked.

Estimated receipts at Chicago for to-morrow: Wheat, cars, 15; corn, 240; oats, 220.

Export clearances of wheat to-day, 115,828 bushels; flour, 4,010 barrels, or wheat and flour as wheat, 137,918 bushels.

Bradstreet's says: Wheat decrease east of the Rockies, 1,237,000. Europe decreased 1,688,000 bushels; corn increased 936,000 bushels; oats increased 86,000 bushels.

Trade at Chicago to-day as follows: Wheat, 73⅜c bid; cash, the asked at 1:30 p. m.

Primary receipts of wheat to-day, 298,000 bushels, against 676,481 same time last year. Shipments, 105,621 bushels, same time last year. Primary receipts of corn, 240,000 bushels; same time last year, 415,814 bushels. Shipments, 457,716 bushels, against 221,620 same time last year.

A New York dispatch says: The amount of wheat and flour now in transit to Europe, with the visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada, is equivalent to 72,578,000 bu., against 92,166,000 b